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THE AMERICAN  
CIVIL WAR

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# THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

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## PREFACE

It is the aim of this book to show that the American Civil War was more than a succession of battles, that it was a struggle between two civilizations, each the logical result of its environment, and each endeavouring to work out the best American interest as it saw it. That, of the two civilizations, one was reactionary, and opposed to both the humanitarian sentiments of the nineteenth century and the economic profit of the race, is quite as true as the fact that honesty and intelligence were about evenly divided in the contest. The motive for secession, slavery, was indefensible in the long run, but men brought up with that institution believed in it, and were led by it to believe that the Constitution had not created a nation,—a position in which they were contradicted by the facts of industry and the law of the land. On both counts, slavery and secession, history must adjudge the South to have been mistaken.

It is reasonably clear to-day that the South would of herself have discarded slavery in another generation; that the New Nationalism would have come about without the Civil War. Yet the war dominated in the

American mind for forty years, and is worthy of study if only on this account.

The reader of this book is urged to study the campaigns with the map before him. The large strategy of the Civil War was simple and direct, but, without a map, it will remain incomprehensible.

The writer of the book is indebted to innumerable fore-runners, who have re-fought the battles on paper, and disputed controverted points. The limits of a preface do not permit all the acknowledgments that he would like to make. But the greatest of his debts is one which he, in common with every other student of the Civil War, owes to the profound, judicial, and enlightened pages of James Ford Rhodes.

MADISON, WISCONSIN, U.S.A.,  
*August, 1911.*

# THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

## CHAPTER I

### THE LAW OF THE LAND

AFTER more than fourscore years of storm and calm, of war and politics, of trying hardships and yet more trying prosperity, the United States remained both independent and united in 1860. In commerce as in government it had managed, one way and another, to hold together and to grow. Through accretion and happy accident, rather than foresight or construction, it had attained a size and wealth surprising to its critics and overwhelming to its citizens. Only a few of these knew whence it had come or whither it was tending, yet in the souls of nearly all there burned a love of country and pride of performance that made the American a marked man wherever he appeared in the society of the world.

The Civil War was fought on both sides by men who had lived through a period of national adolescence. Their intellectual heritage was one. In the conduct of

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their affairs they showed the weaknesses as well as the strength of their experience. They were essentially American whether they were right or wrong.

Only the calm judgment of posterity can determine which side was wrong. Few of the men who voted for or against Abraham Lincoln in 1860 knew enough real history to be influenced by it. What they thought was history they had taken from the lips of their statesmen, as they had read the speeches of Webster or Calhoun. The sources of their knowledge were themselves coloured by the facts of the prolonged controversy that had given life to American politics for thirty years. Yet, after all, one side was right and one was wrong. Though advocates of either were frequently mistaken in their application of historic facts, though partisans of both were always more honest than informed, one side of the quarrel harmonized generally with the trend of human experience and the laws of economic and political evolution ; the other was reactionary and as such condemned by time.

Any explanation of the causes of the Civil War must take into account the forces which had made the American and the southern environments. Fundamental among those of the latter was the cultivation of the cotton plant, and the type of labour which it permitted. From the earliest days of American colonization there had been divergent

tendencies to separate the plantations of the southern seaboard from the farms of the Atlantic coast north of Delaware Bay. Climate, in the South, checked the physical activities of white men, whereas in the North it stimulated and invigorated them. The northern soil responded only to persistent and vigorous attack; the farm lands along the southern rivers invited the easy cultivation of a few staple crops. Everywhere the question of labour supply pressed. In a new country the invitation to work must always be more generous than the response of workers. But in North and South this invitation called for different answers.

The northern labourer before 1830 was most likely to be a farmer, or to be connected in some way with agricultural enterprise. The range of crops to which his labour could be applied was so wide that no single product dominated. All the year round he worked, in the fields or indoors, at domestic manufactures. Turning from job to job, doing a dozen different tasks between sunrise and sunset, he succeeded best who had those traits which the term Yankee has come to signify—quick alertness, readiness of initiative, intelligence and competence. Working by himself, and generally for himself, at tasks that called for close individual application, the northern labourer was the highest of his kind. The opportunity which the New World offered for



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advancement quickened his intellect and inspired his exertions. Unless he was a Yankee he could not prosper.

The southern climate and soil permitted the use of a different kind of labour from that which was essential to the North. Single crops, which could be cultivated by routine, could be grown over wide areas. It was not that individual application and industry could not succeed in the South, but that conditions allowed this industry to exploit a variety of labour that could not justify its existence in the North. Had half-civilized negro labourers been usable in the North, slavery would have flourished there, for labour was in high demand, and the average ethics of the seventeenth century saw nothing anomalous in a human chattel. But in the southern climate the low-class negro labourer adapted himself readily. Improvident and incompetent he was, but under white direction, in a new and fertile land, he could be used to the profit of his owner. The plantation system, which is only the application of gang labour and routine tasks to agriculture, had already become a southern type before the American Revolution. The negro was held as a slave largely because no other way was known to control barbarian labourers. The slave-owner was not yet troubled by logical deductions from the rights of man.

At the beginning of the American govern-

ment under the Constitution, in 1789, there was a difference existing between the labour systems of the northern and southern States ; but there were many other differences among the sectionalistic and localistic States that were believed to be more serious. " It is too probable that no plan we propose will be adopted," the most eminent American had admitted in 1787 when he confronted the task of finding a working basis for friendly relations among thirteen independent States. During the War of Independence, common interests had produced such similarity of result among the States that many have believed that they were then really united. During the years of the Confederacy divergent selfish interests reduced to complete incompetence the congress of ambassadors created by the Articles of Confederation. And when in 1789 the new Constitution was allowed to go into effect the doubters and scoffers were innumerable. The States, though resembling each other in language, government, and practices, were in fact independent and jealous. They had been units as British provinces ; and between 1776 and 1789 they had developed so few economic interests that crossed State lines, that the Convention entrusting all these general interests to the new government had summed them up in a single clause respecting commerce.

The economic development of the United

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States after 1789, is a part of that great industrial revolution that has re-made nearly every government of modern Europe. In America population multiplied and spread. Crossing the Alleghanies the pioneers of the West erected new States which, one by one, were admitted to the Union, until in 1860 the original thirteen had been enlarged to thirty-three. The western commonwealths perpetuated the ideas and economic institutions of their eastern predecessors. Following climatic lines, the territories of the Northwest found their prosperity in free labour, and had been so manifestly predetermined in this that Congress had been able in 1787 to respond to a new humanitarian sentiment and forbid slavery, forever, in the Old North-west. The South-west thrived on the cotton crop, made ever more important by the invention of the gin, the sewing machine, and the application of steam, and continued the exploitation of negro labour on the plantation in the culture of that staple.

The minute localism of interests which had characterized the American States in 1789 was in part destroyed by 1830. One group of States, possessing climatic similarity and geographic propinquity, had acquired a common quality that gave to it weight in the counsels of the nation out of proportion to its population or wealth. The northern States remained individualistic and often

antagonistic, but south of Pennsylvania and the Ohio River, every State possessing the plantation system and slave labour felt its closeness to its neighbours in the common jealousy of anything which might injure the value of its slave property. The South had become a section that in many ways forgot State lines. Its representatives in Congress voted as a unit. The philanthropic notions of the nineteenth century aroused its fears and antagonisms. Vitally interested in the property which its economic situation had allowed it to gather, it could see no good in social movements that threatened the permanence of its vested rights.

Economic unity, based upon slave labour, had come to the South before 1830. Such unity, over a large portion of the United States, had not been anticipated by the framers of the Constitution whose experience had been with the centrifugal forces of local rivalry. Once recognized, however, it gave to the States involved such an advantage in federal affairs that they were able to control the government. After twenty years of this control, they had come to believe themselves entitled, as of right, to direct those national policies which an accident of economics had thrown into their hands.

In the twenty years after 1830, while the South was exulting in its dominance over Congress, the northern States underwent a unifying process, and became the North.

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Here, as in the South, it was the trend of business that produced unity. There, a common method of production gave rise to a community of interests that was intensified when the rest of the world repudiated slavery. Interchange of wares destroyed the localism of the North.

The Alleghany Mountains were both an obstacle and an encouragement to the economic development of the North. So long as they were crossed only by narrow and devious waggon paths, they prevented any large exchange of commodities. They were but a slight obstruction to the South, which passed them and found on their western slopes rivers flowing easily into the Gulf of Mexico and providing abundant routes to a market for their products. But they were a real barrier between the North-east and the North-west. The latter region found that it was limited to the markets reached by the tedious courses of the St. Lawrence or the Mississippi. It coveted the trade of the populous eastern States, and this desire caused it to press for roads across the mountains. Turnpikes, useful but inadequate, were built, used, and discarded for canals; while these in turn were superseded by the railroad just as soon as steam was brought under control.

During the two decades in which the South was convincing itself that cotton was king and was rushing its crop to a receptive

world by the water routes that nature had provided, the North and North-west were struggling with grades and tunnels, cuts and embankments. Before 1840 railroads scarcely diverted the streams of American trade. In the next ten years the trunk lines climbed the Alleghanies. During the fifties, 10,000 miles of railway were opened in the Old North-west alone, and every farmer north of the Ohio could ship direct to tidewater on the Atlantic. It was not a habit or a system of labour that produced the economic unity of the North in contrast to that of the plantation South. It was a physical amalgamation that suddenly appeared between 1850 and 1860, and it was based upon thousands of miles of railway track which defied the sectionalism of geography.

From 1830 to 1850 the united South controlled the policies of the United States. Few even of its leaders foresaw the economic trend of the North. The quick changes of the fifties, operating everywhere in the United States, but most strikingly in the free States, where capital was mobile and was not tied up in an owned labour supply, came as a shock to the South, which had long been a united section and which did not abandon hope of permanent control until after 1860.

The conditions of 1789, in which each State lived by and for itself, had forever passed away by 1860. Even in the South independence by States was out of the

question. The railway net, and the growing industrialism of society, demanded government of a type not foreseen when, in 1789, the States forswore their sovereignty and entered the Union. The development of the national government was inevitable. Had the Constitution been as the southern leaders persuaded themselves it was, there must have been revolution or wholesale amendment to adapt it to modern life as shaped by machinery and steam transportation. Happily, however, it was adequate to the needs of the nineteenth century, and the odium of revolutionary attempt falls upon the section that tried to construe it so as to turn back the hands of time.

The Constitution had been adopted as an experiment. Many believed that it was too rigorous for liberty to survive under it. Others lamented the absence of a more strongly centralized machine. It was a compromise, reached by a Convention that sat in secret, and ratified as the last hope of avoiding anarchy and dissolution. That commercial growth should in less than a century weld the thirteen rival States, and twenty more, into an industrial unit was not anticipated by even the wilder enthusiasts of federalism. Many of the framers would probably have admitted that, if the experiment should fail to work, the States could resume their former independence. Yet they had inserted in the document phrases

whose ratification destroyed the possibility of rupture of the new Union by anything short of revolution. "This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof," the sixth article runs, "shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, anything in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding." To the courts created by the Constitution was assigned judicial power extending "to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority." Without catching the attention of most of its contemporaries a new nation had come into being with all the power necessary to maintain itself. Within the limits of its delegated authority, concerning whose extent its own Supreme Court was to be the final judge, the nation was supreme.

In the years following 1789 one State after another became discontented with its treatment under the Constitution, and in bad temper denied its obligation to submit to federal exaction. But every time a local grievance produced its protest the weight of the disinterested States stifled it. As business came gradually to the courts of the United States, these accepted freely the doctrine that the Constitution had become the law of the land. When Calhoun, realiz-



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ing the essential sectionalism which slavery gave to the South, announced again the doctrine of secession as a remedy within the Constitution, Webster found, in all the disinterested States, lawyers and laymen to follow him when he made his ringing plea for "*Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable!*"

After 1830, southern leaders continued in general adherence to the Calhoun theory of the right of the State to refuse to obey what it believed to be unconstitutional laws. The cotton fields spread out of the old South into the South-west, and the glamour of the great plantation owners' wealth concealed the undesirable position of the low class whites and the absence of that social uniformity which was the triumph of the North. From the knowledge that slave labour was personally profitable to the favoured class, it was easy to develop a plausible argument that it was profitable to the society that employed it, although in the whole South only about one person in ten owned any slaves, and fewer than 12,000 owned as many as 50, in 1860. It was forgotten that listless, incompetent labour is dear even when employed without a wage. Until the railway appeared, with its large demand for free capital for investment, the South could not see the fact that it was bound to a system that forbade change in method or adaptation to the conditions of modern life. The men who prof-

ited by the institution had made themselves into an aristocracy that controlled the politics as well as the business of their section, and whatever threatened their interests was treason to the social order. In the national government they met each step against slavery with threats of dissolution of the Union, but in no case before 1860 were they compelled to carry out their threat, since their compact unity controlled Congress. The North had passed the South in both population and wealth; being free itself, it had come to dislike slavery; and not sharing in the profits of slavery it had been able to develop a public opinion antagonistic to it. But until the trunk line railways were done in the early fifties, it had no political unity that could give its opinions weight. The generation of Webster passed away, leaving behind in the North a new generation that had declaimed his reply to Hayne in their school days, and had grown up to see an indestructible Union, in law, become one in economic fact. Until 1854 every time the South faced Congress with the alternatives of concession to slavery or secession, it carried its point against the disorganization of the northern States. Before the end of the fifties, the changing North became a nation that must one day refuse to be scared by the bogey of disunion, and stand its ground on the hard facts of economics and law. From the beginning, the Constitution had been

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the supreme law of the land. Under it, a majority was entitled to rule. Before 1860 a united nation, bound unbreakably by the irons of 30,000 miles of railway and nearly independent of sectionalism that was based on geographic accident, lived under the Constitution and was prepared to test its strength.

## CHAPTER II

### SECESSION

THE rise and growth of the Republican party is the measure of the realization on the part of the North that it had a unity as well as a political purpose. For many years Lundy, Garrison, Channing, and Parker had preached against the slavery which the North had outgrown. Exasperating to the South, and ineffective in the North, the new gospel was the work of individuals and produced no reaction that could check the annexation of Texas, the conquest of Mexico, the opening of the territories to slavery, or the repeal of the Missouri compromise. Both great parties, Whig and Democrat, feared the loss of the southern vote. Their leaders repeatedly professed themselves to believe that the rising question was settled. Regardless of party lines, southern politicians voted with unerring vision when sectional interests were involved. But in the year in which the first Chicago railway reached the Mississippi there was born a party of opposition to the continued exactions of the South.

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The opening of the railways was followed by hopeful speculation throughout the North. Chicago, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, and St. Louis struggled among themselves for the control of the markets of the East. New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Boston sent their agents out to secure the markets of the West. New activities and general prosperity are recorded in the commercial journals of the fifties. Close upon these, intellectual and political enthusiasms followed. Every mile of track increased the weekly range of the New York *Tribune*. Unity in trade relations became the foundation of an approach to uniformity in conviction and action. The deep emotions aroused among individuals when Douglas, in 1854, directed the organization of Kansas and Nebraska, and opened the territories to slavery, came at a time when newspapers were circulating with a new ease, and men in the North were becoming conscious of their political weight.

The Kansas-Nebraska law, passed in May, 1854, repealed the Missouri compromise and organized two territories, whose status as to slavery or freedom should be regulated in the future by their occupants. Before it was signed, resistance to its fundamental premise had appeared throughout the North. On July 13, the anniversary of the great North-west ordinance of 1787, numerous mass meetings denounced the repudiation of

a sacred compromise. In the autumn elections, a new party showed itself able to break down, here and there, a party line. In every month after July, 1854, the new party, named Republican, became stronger and more clearly defined throughout the North as a sectional party, favouring opposition to the sectional policy of the South that had won every important division for nearly thirty years.

In 1856 the Republican party entered upon its first national campaign. It was too weak to hope for success; leaders of assured reputation were yet unready to imperil their future by accepting its nominations. Made of men of diverse antecedents, with no common bond save the desire to restrict the extension of slavery, it was forced to feel its way among the old issues. It contented itself with a candidate no more important than John C. Frémont, whose title to fame was his service as an explorer, and whose meagre abilities were ever to be over-exploited by his better half, a daughter of Thomas Hart Benton, of Missouri. Yet the new party carried eleven northern States and polled a third of the popular vote. Frémont was defeated by James Buchanan, an elderly northern Democrat, backed by the united South; but the old Whig party was almost extinguished and the Republicans now took their place as one of the two great party organizations. Thus far they had been a party

of idealists ; hereafter the practical politician gained more than a foothold among them.

In the next four years the sectional character of the controversy became more clear. Forgetful that it had been the first to establish a permanent sectionalism in politics, the South denounced the sectional character of the "Black Republicans." Bad temper, which had always been associated with the slavery struggle, became worse. Ignorance of the motives and character of the Republicans, on the part of the South, was exceeded only by the northern ignorance of the capacity of the negro and the temper of the slaveholder. The greatest test of popular government must always come when the constitutional majority is separated from the minority by a geographic line. When parties are intermingled over the same area the majority always knows the minority too well to be unduly harsh. But sectional parties are separated by a gulf of ignorance which no charity can bridge, and either side is willing and anxious to believe the worst of its opponent. Thoroughly American on both sides, devoted to the Union as they knew it and the ideals that flourished in their sections, the North and South came to face an issue in which one must triumph and the other surrender. Henry Clay had outlived the period of compromises and now a consolidating North could no longer yield.

The platform of the Republicans was clear

in 1856. Its leaders were yet to be developed from the three classes of men who acted with the party. Mature Democrats and mature Whigs abandoned their old relations, in their opposition to the Kansas-Nebraska measures. To these were added young men who had read "Uncle Tom's Cabin" as youths, and who came to their first vote in 1856 or 1860. Most prominent of the leaders who took up the new fight was William H. Seward, former governor of New York, enthusiastic, vigorous, and plausible, whose best known phrase gave name to the "irrepressible conflict." Next to Seward was Governor Salmon P. Chase of Ohio, once a Democrat, of solid legal knowledge and first-rate administrative ability, who fell short of greatness only through his touch of personal ambition. After these came the lesser lights, inspired by principle or hope of profit. Some were spoilsmen who abandoned sinking ships, others were abolitionists whose radical ideas found too little play within the new organization. One of them was a western politician, no longer young and without great prominence, whose right to leadership was slowly established during the administration of James Buchanan.

Abraham Lincoln, of Illinois, had endeared himself to his associates, but had made no impression upon the United States in 1856. He was a country lawyer, brought up on a raw frontier, deprived of formal schooling,



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and making only a moderate success at his profession, when he left his office to campaign for the Republican party. He might never have passed beyond the activities of a local politician had not chance thrown him against a more successful citizen of his State, who had established himself as the leader of the Democrats. Stephen A. Douglas lifted Lincoln into the national vision. Fighting the Kansas-Nebraska principle, Lincoln was ever on the trail of Douglas, the author of the bill. In 1858 they were both engaged in a contest over a legislature which was to choose a senator to fill Douglas's seat. After the custom of the time they toured the State, speaking in joint debates which failed to defeat Douglas for re-election, but which clarified the issues, and made the aims of both great parties clear and unmistakable. In these debates Lincoln, as a speaker and popularizer, impressed the news correspondents who had come west to report the speeches of Douglas. The Republican party found his arguments their best campaign material. With good temper, simplicity, and logic he stated the theories of majority rule, and expressed his belief that slavery would cease to exist. For the federal government he claimed only a single right: to exclude slavery from any of the "Territories" of the United States. Over these, he maintained that Congress had ample power. The Dred Scott decision, which

denied this power, he criticized as bad law, while he pledged his party to unswerving opposition to any variety of slavery extension.

Among the Republicans, Lincoln was a moderate. Though believing slavery wrong, he denied any power in Congress to limit or abolish it within the States. The abolitionists thought him impervious to the ethical question. He was regarded as too radical by the practical politicians of his party because he frankly attacked the law of the Dred Scott case and explicitly stated his desire to abolish slavery in the Territories. If any one had cared to note it, he might have seen that, in his personal judgments, Lincoln was not censorious, that he had no disposition to denounce the slave-holder but was content to fight the issue.

Up to the meeting of the Republican convention, in June, 1860, few foresaw that Lincoln would secure the nomination for the Presidency, and those few were generally engaged in managing his campaign. The newspaper lists of possible candidates rarely named him, but the disabilities of the reputed candidates were as important for him as his own qualities. Though an old Whig, he had been too obscure to arouse the antagonisms that headed off the other candidates for the nomination. It was a disappointing shock to eastern Republicans when they learned that at Chicago their party had been induced to accept a candidate without experience, with

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little national reputation, and with standing chiefly as a man of words. But dissatisfied as many Republicans were, their unity was stronger than that of any other party in the impending campaign.

The rise of the Republicans was contemporary with the breakdown of the Whigs and the schism of the Democrats, the last being partly the result of Lincoln's generalship. It was he who pointed out to the South that when Douglas spoke of popular sovereignty he meant what he said,—that popular sovereignty might mean rejection of slavery as well as its extension. To the South, which had accepted Douglas's doctrine as a means of extending slavery, this interpretation was disconcerting. The extremists repudiated both the doctrine and its author; the moderates clung to him. When the party met in national convention at Charleston, in April, 1860, Douglas controlled the organization, but could not prevent a radical minority from "bolting" the convention. Panic-stricken, the convention adjourned to Baltimore, only to find the schism wider. Split for the first time, with John C. Breckinridge of Kentucky heading the bolters and Douglas as the nominee of the regulars, the Democrats offered victory to the better united Republican party. This victory was made more certain when a fourth ticket, of conservative Constitutional Unionists, brought John Bell of Tennessee into the field.

The canvass of 1860 was attended by the same threats that had appeared in every previous slavery debate. Having only a minority in the United States, the South had no hope of continuing its control if ever the real majority should become united ; and with its party split, defeat at the polls now seemed inevitable. Talk of secession was frequent ; if it failed to frighten the Republicans it was because it had been repeated too often. In November Lincoln was elected, and the South faced the alternatives of accepting him or making good its threats.

Four days after the election of Lincoln, South Carolina called a convention to face the crisis. That the Republican party would be content to restrict slavery in the Territories and leave it unmolested in the States, no southerner believed. The South preferred, instead, to think that John Brown was the true exponent of the Republican theory, and saw in his fanatical attempt at a servile revolt a forerunner of abolitionist control. In the prolonged fight the section had convinced itself that slavery was an economic good, to be preserved at any cost. The leaders now only had to lead, for behind them was a popular sentiment for secession that grew stronger every day. The South Carolina convention met on December 17, 1860, and three days later, with popular applause, repealed the ordinance by which a similar convention had adopted the Consti-

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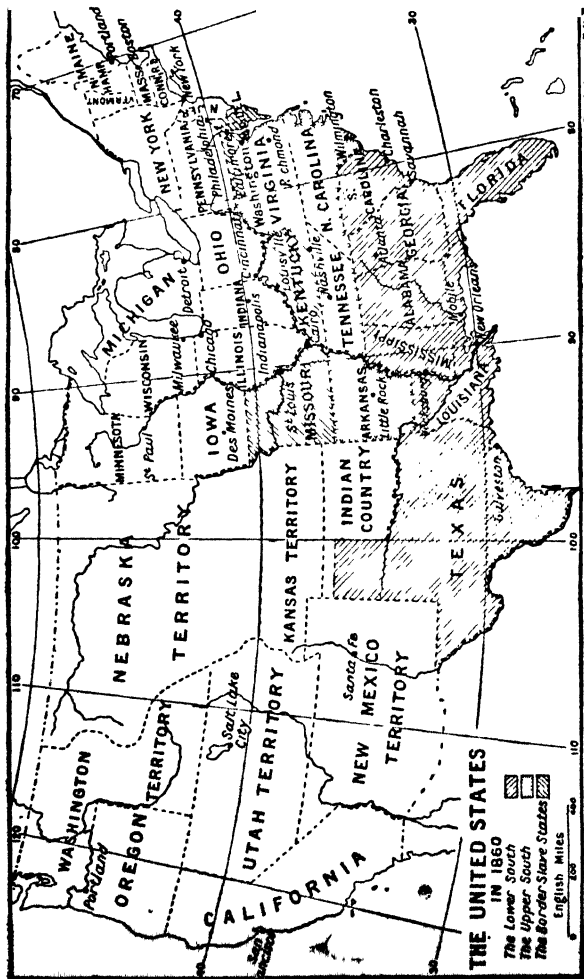
tution of the United States. It declared that South Carolina resumed her sovereign powers among the nations, issued a declaration of causes which, like the Declaration of Independence, justified the act, and published an address to the people of the slave-holding States. Then it adjourned to await the action of Congress and the South. There was no confusing of the issue, and no doubt that slavery was the cause. Fear of aggression upon slavery had produced the resort to Calhoun's final remedy.

Had all the slave-holding States followed the example of South Carolina it is doubtful if the Union could have been maintained. But in none was secession unanimous, while in some the Union sentiment was as strong as the devotion to slavery. In the lower South the movement was most intense. South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, and Texas fronted on the Atlantic and the Gulf, had seaports in abundance, and were the centre of the plantation system. Within their borders plantations were the largest and cotton culture was the most highly organized. If any communities needed to hang together to save their slaves these did; and the time of their secession was fixed only by convenience. During December and January their members in Congress worked out a programme of co-operation, in accordance with which the six other States of the lower South followed

South Carolina in repudiating the Constitution. By February 1, 1861, they had all acted, and interest was concentrated upon the States of a second group.

Just north of the lower South came a tier of States less identified with the plantation system, having fewer slaves as well as a larger proportion of non-slave-holding whites. North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, and Arkansas were doubtful. Had slavery been the only issue they might not have risked secession for it. But they, as their neighbours, had been taught for many years that the Union was a compact terminable at will, upon suspicion of violation. The sovereign rights which all the States had possessed in 1787 they believed still to exist, since none of their political teachers had dwelt heavily upon the maxim that "this Constitution . . . shall be the supreme Law of the Land." Fear of aggression upon slavery might not have moved them, but should coercive means be used to hold the lower South in the Union, such attack upon the cherished sovereignty of States was likely to drive them to secede.

The four border States—Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri—were still more lukewarm to slavery. Financial interest in slavery decreased steadily to the North, and these States, bordering upon free States, regarded slaves as only one among many forms of property. There was sufficient industrialism among them for them to have



a different view of the Union than prevailed south of the Potomac. What course they would follow was problematic until 1863. Both sides hoped to retain their support, while their uncertainty did much to shape the policies of Lincoln's first administration.

On February 1, 1861, seven States had announced their withdrawal from the Union. Six of them met by their delegates in convention at Montgomery, Alabama, on February 4, to form a Constitution for the new Confederacy which they proposed to erect. Separatist though they were, they had no idea of maintaining severally their independence. Their repugnance was not to union, but to a Union in which they constituted a minority. Their men of vision looked forward to a southern Confederacy embracing all the slave-holding States and perhaps including the States of the upper Mississippi Valley. They failed to see that the railroads had substituted artificial routes for the well-known natural highways of the Ohio and the Mississippi. But whether they enticed the North-west from the Union or not, slavery was their fundamental basis. The "corner stone" of the new republic, said Alexander H. Stephens, its vice-president, was the great truth that the negro is inferior to the white man, and that slavery is his natural condition.

The formation of the Confederate Constitution was an easy matter. In ability and experience its framers had no superiors in



the South. They represented, not a conspiracy of selfish traitors, but a popular uprising that had no doubts as to the righteousness of the cause. Long familiarity with the procedure of State governments, of Congress, and the executive departments at Washington, made them able to adapt the old Constitution to the new needs in a few days. After they had affirmed the right to property in slaves, asserted the special doctrine of State sovereignty, and forbidden the enactment of a protective tariff, there were few changes which they desired to make. When the provisional president, Jefferson Davis of Mississippi, undertook to put the new frame of government into operation, he found abundant administrative experience ready to be drawn upon. On February 18, the provisional government was formally inaugurated at Montgomery. Departments of state, treasury, war, navy, justice, and post office were speedily organized, and before a hand had been lifted to check secession, the new Confederate States of America existed as a State,—within or without the United States, as the event should prove.

## CHAPTER III

### ABRAHAM LINCOLN

JAMES BUCHANAN, fifteenth President of the United States, had been representative and senator, minister to the court of St. James, and secretary of state, before he defeated John C. Frémont in 1856, and acceded to the chief magistracy. Having much experience in public affairs, great skill in local politics, and long association with the other leaders of the Democratic party, he had none of that ignorance which made many northerners unfair judges of the conduct and motives of the southerner. His judicial temperament restrained him from emotional excess in either direction. He inclined to be affected more by the unrestrained inaccuracies of the abolitionists than by the ethical question of slavery. From long co-operation with the leaders of the South he had come to judge them kindly. His legal experience left him doubtful as to the coercive powers of the Union, and sympathetic with those who had been driven, he believed, to desperate and unjustifiable extremes by the attack upon their social order.

Too old to create or execute vigorous policies, feeling keenly the unfairness of the attacks upon the South, construing the Constitution strictly in all its bearings, he was at the close of an unsatisfactory administration when the election of 1860 brought the downfall of his party and gave the national government over to the Republicans.

Even if Buchanan had held an enlarged view of the power of the government, there is little that he could have done in the four months between the election and the inauguration of Lincoln. Congress was in session nearly all the time, with power to block at pleasure. Unless it enlarged the powers of the President, he could do nothing. Upon it rested the chief responsibility for providing the machinery for enforcing the laws, should they be violated. Yet it remained indifferent to this obligation, and until near the end of the session was actually under the influence of those southern leaders who were shortly to take their place at Richmond or in the field. Federal officials were resigning throughout the South, and when the Senate neglected to confirm the appointment of their successors, the President was helpless. Yet there is little that any Congress could have done to prevent secession. Until resistance to the law occurred, the pretended withdrawal from the Union had no standing either under or against the Constitution. Freedom to meet, to organize, to talk, were, and had

been, dear to the American imagination. Even northern extremists would have been slow to give real grievance to the South by interfering with its freedom of expression, and many took the southern conduct so lightly that its possibilities were discounted.

It was no new thing for the North to hear the South complain and threaten secession. The United States had become so callous to murmurings that had never materialized, that their repetition was undervalued in 1860 by those who made as well as those who heard them. Until election day few northerners believed that the South would fulfil its promise. If South Carolina did secede, as she had nullified in 1832, it was a fair guess that she would allow herself to be coaxed back into the Union and rewarded for her grumbling by a larger share of privilege. Even in the South there was little belief that it would be necessary to carry out the threat to its rigorous extreme. The North was thought to be timid or low-spirited. It would either yield the point, or allow secession to occur without a fight. The individual was rare on either side who counted on secession followed by a war.

The first effect of the events of December, 1860, and January, 1861, was as might have been foreseen. The northern extremist fell under a cloud. The abolitionist was charged with having caused the trouble. Democrats, old line Whigs, and even cautious Republicans

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took occasion to throw the blame where Buchanan threw it in his annual message, upon the "long-continued and intemperate interference of the Northern people with the question of slavery in the Southern States." In Congress the compromiser was in evidence.

The responsibility for the failure of Congress to repeat the attempts of 1820 and 1850 in a general slavery compromise, rests upon the shoulders of the president-elect. From the start the committees in both Senate and House of Representatives realized that no compromise could stand without the concurrence of those Republican leaders who were to have complete charge of the government after March 4, 1861. Somewhat frightened by their success and the demonstration it had provoked from the South, these were disposed to yield, and accept amendments, guaranteeing slavery in the States and perpetuating it in a portion or all of the Territories. Lincoln himself was willing to record in an amendment what he believed already to be the law,—that no interference with the domestic institutions of the States should be allowed. But when the southern congressmen, as the price of Union, demanded the Territories, Lincoln, inexperienced country lawyer though he was, stood by the main platform of his party—the right of Congress to legislate over the Territories and to exclude slavery therefrom—and refused to be moved by

persuasion or menace. Unwilling to support any plan which curtailed this power, Lincoln became responsible for the failure of the compromise, and, in a sense, made the decision that plunged the country into war. If slavery was right, and if the southern minority was justified in its determination to control or break the nation, he made a mistake.

For three months, Congress worked over the forlorn hope of compromise; a peace convention deliberated in informal session; public opinion wavered from side to side; and the single sure and responsible group of men in the United States proceeded in the organization of the Confederacy. Buchanan believed that there was no power in the government to check secession by force. Certainly Congress had given him no aid. Tentative in his policies, a northern secretary resigned from his cabinet because he was too lenient; a Mississippian went out because he was too severe. Even on the immediate question of retaining United States' property in the South, custom houses, forts, navy yards, and the like, his course was uncertain until nearly the end of his administration. He had no doubt as to his power in this detail, but held off from giving added provocation which might prevent a compromise. Not unlike Webster, who in his old age made concessions to slavery to save the Union, Buchanan sacrificed his standing

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in popular repute to his belief that conciliation was as yet better than force.

And so the spring of 1861 advanced, with indecision on every side except that of the Confederacy. Mr. Davis proceeded with the organization of his government, but put off the day of conflict of jurisdiction as long as possible. The United States mails ran unmolested through the South until nearly the end of May. In the North there was no coherent public opinion in the first three months of the year. Leaders, most of them upset and nervous, ranged the whole distance from coercion at any cost to thankfulness at the riddance. Followers of the Confederacy came to believe that secession would be peaceable, and that the new President would not attempt to interfere.

On March 4, Abraham Lincoln was "inaugurated" as President, despite the predictions that he would be murdered or that the ceremony would be prevented. Since the election, he had remained quietly in his home in Springfield, listening to the ebb and flow of advice and opinion, but refraining from new utterances in public that might embarrass Buchanan or himself. It does not appear that he worked out any policy in detail. As time went on, men learned that he had no set rules of administration, but met his business, piece by piece, settling it as nearly in accord with his fundamental convictions as might be. When the editors

asked what he proposed to do, he referred them to his speeches. He did not conceal from his intimates his belief that slavery was wrong. It was too late to prevent southerners from dwelling upon his most important public phrases: "I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved,—I do not expect the house to fall,—but I do expect that it will cease to be divided." And it was to be expected that they would doubt the sincerity of his disclaimers of power in the government to touch slavery in the States. But although he refrained from public discussion, he placed himself in touch with all the elements in and out of his party. The suggestion that he should ward off suspicion by taking into the cabinet a southerner or two, he followed up by a vain search for the honest southerner to take the place. Modest and never opinionated, he sought for the men who could help him make a cabinet, regardless of their attitude towards himself. Yet he kept an open mind about some of his final selections until the eve of the inauguration.

The fears of an interrupted inauguration proved unfounded. General Scott filled the capital with troops, and waited nervously while the ceremony progressed. What Lincoln was to say, aroused as much interest as whether he would be allowed to say it;



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but whatever it should be, Stephen A. Douglas had determined that his own loyalty to the United States should be equally noticeable and pronounced. When the president-elect looked helplessly around the stand for a place to put his hat, his defeated rival reached out and held it while the "inaugural" was delivered. There was nothing sensational in the address and nothing new. Quietly and carefully Lincoln reiterated his pledges that he had "no purpose, directly or indirectly to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists." But he went on to assure his fellow-citizens that, "in view of the Constitution and the laws, the Union is unbroken, and to the extent of my ability I shall take care, as the Constitution itself expressly enjoins upon me, that the laws of the Union be faithfully executed in all the States." It was clear from the tenor of his words that there could be no peaceable secession unless a divided opinion in the North should impede his actions. If the North should sustain him there must be a fight.

The national government, whose direction Mr. Lincoln now assumed, was far from perfect, and fell below the standard of the next generation. The idea of appointment for merit and the utility of expert service had not yet reached the popular mind. Every American citizen was still believed, in the rampant democracy of the middle-

century, to be fitted for any job he could get. Since the inauguration of Andrew Jackson each new administration had witnessed a federal house-cleaning, and a new distribution of the spoils of office. This substitution of new and inexperienced clerks for those of greater knowledge had often embarrassed administrations before 1860, when the change was only from one Democratic régime to another of the same faith. A clean sweep was to be anticipated when the radical change from Democrat to Republican took place,—so clean that a keen Irish journalist thought not a few of the federal officials in the South were quickened in their devotion to the Confederacy by their certainty of being dismissed from the service of the United States. Lincoln's cabinet revealed both the strength and the weakness of the prevailing system.

William H. Seward was invited to become secretary of state. His high fitness for the post could not be questioned, and he came well within the tradition that this office, at least, must be filled by a man of parts. He was regarded, and regarded himself, as the real head of the Republican party, and had been defeated in the convention only by his over-prominence. In the cabinet he met and tested strength with another of the defeated factional chiefs, Chase of Ohio.

Of the three strong men of the cabinet, Seward stood easily the head, and was a

creditable appointment upon any theory. Salmon P. Chase had no qualifications for the Treasury except his unquestioned loyalty, his power in the North-west, and his good general ability. His appointment to the most technical post in the government was purely political, and was successful only by accident. Yet few of his contemporaries questioned the wisdom of placing a man unskilled in finance in charge of the intricate processes of national credit. That he succeeded is, after all, proof that the American idea is not wholly wrong. His appointment, indicating Lincoln's failure to connect special skill with specific duties, was far better than the first appointment to the war department.

Simon Cameron, Mr. Lincoln's first secretary of war, was given his portfolio as the result of a political deal, apparently unauthorized by the president-elect, but not shocking to the political ethics of 1860. In control of the Pennsylvania delegation, a "favourite son" before the convention, he had been bought off by the tender of a seat in the cabinet. His incapacity, if not worse, was notable even in a day of amateur administrators; and when he was permitted to resign, his chief filled his place with his third great secretary, Edwin M. Stanton. It made no difference to Lincoln that Seward and Chase had been his rivals, or that Stanton, a Union Democrat, had hated and de-

spised him. These were men of force and influence in a time when it was quite as important to fill the government with men who could command a majority in the North as to run the government smoothly and economically. The other seats in the cabinet were distributed where they would do the most good, to citizens of Connecticut, Indiana, Missouri, and Maryland. The aim of the President was to unite all shades of Union sentiment that his main purpose might be carried out. Seward doubted the wisdom of the "compound cabinet." "I was at one time on the point of refusing," he wrote his wife, "nay, I did refuse for a time to hazard myself in the experiment."

In the confusion resulting from the change of administration it was several weeks before definite action could be reached on any of the problems which Buchanan had handed over to his successors. New officers had to learn something of their work, the most pressing subordinate appointments had to be made, the cabinet had yet to find which of its leaders was the chief, and public opinion was still far from unity on any point. In legal power Lincoln was exactly where his predecessor had been, but Congress had gone home, to remain there for the long recess, and unless he invited it he had no immediate interference to fear. In the intervals between the visits of clamorous office-seekers he devoted himself to study

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of the existing situation and to sounding the political temper of the Union.

The retention of the public property of the United States presented the earliest concrete problem for the cabinet of Lincoln. Buchanan had allowed the southern arsenals and forts to be seized by the States in which they lay, and had permitted officers in the army and civil service to deliver the property of the United States, which they were under oath to guard, to agents of the Confederacy. He had done this rather than raise new issues by a forcible retention, and if compromise measures had brought back the South there could have been little criticisms of it. Uncertain as to the willingness of the United States to back him up, he had played for time. On the inauguration of Lincoln opinion was still unformed, though the clear analysis in his inaugural brought some change during the ensuing weeks. The first vote of his cabinet, March 15, favoured the continuation of Buchanan's policy. Until nearly the end of March, the commanding general of the army, Winfield Scott, believed the southern forts could not be retained.

The forts in Charleston harbour were by common consent accepted as the test case, and had figured largely in secession news since Christmas, 1860. Three of them there were, in charge of a trifling garrison of Federal troops, commanded by a southern

officer, Major Robert Anderson. Their delivery had been demanded by South Carolina, immediately upon the passage of the ordinance of secession, but, while overtures for their surrender were being made at Washington, Anderson abandoned the untenable Fort Moultrie and moved his troops to the island on which Fort Sumter lay. Here, on his own responsibility, he raised his flag, and by giving notoriety to his position increased the difficulty for the administration which should abandon him.

Fort Sumter remained the centre of discussion. The waverings of Buchanan's cabinet respecting it ended in part when Buchanan determined, on December 31, not to deal with commissioners from the seceding States, and agreed a few days later to try to reinforce the fort. A coasting steamer, the "Star of the West," was sent from New York, with supplies, since the garrison was scantily provided. But the troops of South Carolina fired upon the steamer as she entered the harbour, and her captain brought her back to New York. The reinforcement, thus defeated by armed resistance, brought about a cabinet crisis and a group of new appointments, after which Confederate encroachments were fewer until the end of the administration.

Major Anderson was still hanging on to Fort Sumter, in a state of siege, when Lincoln became President, and his support or

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withdrawal was the first issue. With a cabinet voting against re-enforcement, it took the President a month to reach his determination. Early in April he decided that rations must be sent in spite of the menacing presence of a South Carolina army and the demands of the Confederate commissioners. Before he could induce co-operation among the members of his cabinet, the determination leaked out, a formal demand for surrender, made by order of the Confederate government, was delivered to Major Anderson, and, early on the morning of April 12, the Charleston batteries opened fire. For a day and a half Anderson held out, though in a ramshackle fortress with few rations and little ammunition. About noon on the 13th, with barracks burning and the garrison in imminent danger of destruction, he accepted overtures which typified the disorderly enthusiasm of the southern cause. A former senator from Texas, Wigfall by name, was in Charleston as an unofficial aide to General Beauregard. Without authority, but with the zeal of a volunteer, Colonel Wigfall buckled a sword about his frock coat, forced a negro to row him in a small boat to the fort, clambered through an embrasure with a white handkerchief tied to his sword, and had agreed upon terms of surrender before the arrival of a formal detail of officers to demand it. On April 14, according to the agreement, Anderson ran up his flag and

saluted it, and then embarked unmolested to return to the United States, his only loss of life being one private killed during the salute.

With the fall of Fort Sumter occurred the first clash that public opinion chose to notice, marking a victory in tactics for Lincoln. Both he and Davis had hoped that, if conflict must come, it might occur in such a way as to hurt the other cause and consolidate their own. Davis, with only seven States in his Confederacy and the upper South yet undecided, needed such a crisis as would show to those reluctant slave States the federal government in the role of an oppressor, trampling upon the doctrine of State rights. Lincoln, contrariwise, strove to avoid an appearance of coercion, and to make it clear to his uncertain North that enforcement of the law, rather than war against a group of States, was his determination. The zeal of South Carolina here lost the Confederacy a point. Her bombardment preceded the arrival of re-enforcements at the fort, instead of following that event, and was accepted in the North as a gratuitous attack. At once there appeared a new certainty of purpose. None could deny that the South meant war, that it had made the first attack and that disunion was at hand.



## CHAPTER IV

### CIVIL WAR

No officer in the service of the United States or the Confederate States, in April, 1861, had seen, in one time or place, more than three-fourths of the little regular army. This had remained for years near 16,000, and aggregated in June, 1860, 16,006 officers and men. Yet on April 15, 1861, President Lincoln called upon the States for 75,000 volunteers to enforce the laws and repossess the property of the United States. There was no general officer with experience adequate to command such a force, no machinery in the War Department, under its incapable Secretary, to feed, clothe, arm, move, or pay it, and no plan in the mind of any responsible official for its immediate use. The laws which had been violated were to be enforced by the President, using those powers which the Constitution gives to him in case of armed insurrection ; but Lincoln's greatest chance of speedy success in the restoration of order lay in the disorganization of the opposing army which, though already several weeks old, was nearly as chaotic as his own.

The United States was not a military nation, though it possessed in abundance the materials which go to make one. With a vigorous and growing population, with great potential wealth and light taxation, it needed only a motive and training to evolve not one great war machine, but two. Until 1863 fighting was highly experimental, neither government possessing a reliable force in either officers or men. After that year, fighting was professional on both sides, affording to military experts processes for emulation rather than examples to be avoided. Yet prior to Lincoln's call for volunteers a prophecy as to the outcome of the struggle might have been undertaken.

The States of the Union, in 1860, extended to the western border of Texas, with one complete tier of States beyond the Mississippi, and two outlying States upon the Pacific Coast. It contained an aggregate of about 31,000,000 inhabitants, whose proportions in the hostile camps depended upon the intensity of grievance and the plausibility of statesmen. If the Confederacy had carried with it not only the seven States of the lower South, and the four of the upper South which followed speedily upon the call for troops, but all the fifteen slave-holding States, the disproportion of population would have been much less. But, as the lines were finally drawn, twenty-two of the States of 1860, and part of a twenty-third, remained with

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the Union and massed a population of 22,700,000 against the 8,700,000 who occupied the eleven States of the Confederacy. More uneven were the figures of white inhabitants, since in the Union there remained nearly 22,000,000 of these, while the Confederacy had but 5,096,000. With more than four white citizens north of the Potomac to every white person in the South, the contest was unequal at the outset. That it could have been undertaken cheerfully and with belief in ultimate success by the Confederate leaders excites amazement.

In geographic relations the South was and appeared to be somewhat better placed to resist invasion than the North was to execute it. A compact, well-watered territory with abundance of seaports and penetrating rivers, the South could protect its military frontier with a minimum of exertion. Waiting for the attack, and repelling it on the border, it could manage on a smaller war budget and a slighter commissariat to defend itself. The North had longer distances to traverse to reach the fighting line, and was always operating from outside the defences, whereas the South moved in the short line from the centre to the circumference.

This geographic advantage took a leading place in the southern mind among the causes contributing to success. It was of value throughout the war, though its utility had been lessened by industrial facts with which

the South was not intimately familiar. The old North had possessed inadequate routes of communication, and the North-west, whose sympathy the South hoped for, had been a section by itself, more dependent on the South than on the East. But in the ten years before secession the railroads had appeared. The South thought of its internal water routes and the aid they could derive from local railways. All the seaboard States were connected by rail, and from them trunk lines crossed the hills of Virginia and those of Georgia, converging upon Chattanooga and continuing west to the Mississippi River at Memphis. North and south the Mississippi was paralleled by the Mobile and Ohio, and its branches. Kentucky and Virginia had local lines and, should Maryland secede, the Baltimore and Ohio would bring an added trunk line within the Confederate territory.

But these southern roads, important as they were, had changed the facts of geography less than those of the North. Besides the Baltimore and Ohio, which was retained in Union hands, the North had trunk lines in the Pennsylvania, Erie, New York Central, and Grand Trunk systems. The Ohio River was touched by north-western railways at Pittsburg, Steubenville, Wheeling, Marietta, Portsmouth, Cincinnati, Lawrenceburg, Jeffersonville, New Albany, Evansville, and Cairo. Without these lines the North could hardly have hoped to crush the

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**Confederacy:** with them the disadvantage of distance was compensated for by the speed of movement.

The South had some advantage in geography. In industry, its chance depended upon keeping its seaports open and getting its cotton to the European market. Could this be done, the proceeds of the cotton would keep the government in munitions and food; but should the ports be closed the South had few manufactures and could not be self-sustaining. The North was a manufacturing community. Not yet self-sufficient, it had the beginnings of most of its industries, and need not suffer even if all its foreign commerce were destroyed. Yankee ingenuity had begun to provide labour-saving inventions. The introduction of the reaper into the north-west wheat fields was a national gain. Said the Secretary of War, in 1861; "The reaper is to the North what slavery is to the South. By taking the places of regiments of young men in the Western harvest fields, it releases them to do battle for the Union at the front, and at the same time keeps up the supply of bread for the nation and the nation's armies." Yet the reaper was only one out of many inventions which made the northerner more effective, man for man, than his southern fellow-citizen.

Based on its manufactures, the North had wealth, taxable values, and credit in excess of those of the South, and far greater

than even well-informed southerners believed. From the financial panic of 1857 the South had escaped, since she possessed few of the institutions that could be affected most by industrial depression,—banks, railways, factories, and cities. In every aspect of her life, the lack of ready capital showed itself. The North, however, with a more complex economic organization, had suffered grievously, and had presented what the South read as a lesson upon the evils of industrial society. Sensible southerners believed that the sufferings of the North and the immunity of the South proved that a society organized on the plantation and slavery was safer and wealthier than one based upon manufactures and industry. Upon this belief many founded their hopes for a successful outcome.

Convinced that its country was admirably situated for defence, that its social order was not subject to financial disturbance, that in the cotton crop it had an unquenchable source of revenue, and, finally, that one healthy southerner could lick five Yankees, the Confederacy faced the overwhelming numbers of the North without fear.

The firing upon Fort Sumter and the call for troops on April 15, 1861, gave a text throughout the North, and made it forget that it had ever been undecided. The Union was attacked, and volunteers crowded around their local leaders to demand enlistment. The wires to Washington were

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crowded with tenders of regiments and companies, and sturdy Governor Andrew of Massachusetts, who had drilled his militia all the spring, had only to call them to their armouries and start them south. Not only Americans, educated to a confidence in the Union and additionally excited by a hatred of slavery, but newcomers of the last two decades, shouldered the musket and learned the manual. Out of the eastern cities came the Irish, driven from their old home by starvation and induced to enter the American militia by the deep hope of a future war for Ireland, and now paying for their military tuition. Out of the western cities, Cincinnati, Chicago, and St. Louis, came the Germans, immigrants of '48 and later, many of them trained as soldiers in the Fatherland, and all inspired by an abiding spirit of liberty and nationality. Home-born or foreign, the enlistment went beyond the call, and Lincoln accepted 90,000 without satisfying the enthusiastic response to his proclamation.

The management of this army, whose numbers continued to grow until it finally included more than 1,000,000 men, fell upon a War Department accustomed only to a handful of troops and the routine of peace. The regular army, necessarily called upon for officers, was disorganized by numerous resignations of men from the South who elected to go with their States. The most

promising of its officers, to whom even was tendered the general command, was Robert E. Lee, of a famous Virginia family, whose loyalty to his State, in a cause which he distrusted, deprived the Union of his services. After Lee, Albert Sidney Johnston, commander of the Utah expedition of 1857, was the greatest loss. But in both armies, men trained at West Point dominated throughout the war, although they formed only a small fraction of all the officers employed. The professional soldier showed his vast superiority to the volunteer in the performance of his trade. Volunteer officers rose to high rank, but few of them stand among the generals of proved reputation in 1865. Men who had resigned from the army before the war, frequently to use their talents in railway enterprises, asked for re-appointment, and were freely given commands in the great organization camps, where they applied their experience to the training of raw recruits.

As the regiments poured into Washington, the national capital speedily became the greatest of the camps. Partly from sentimental reasons, it was the centre of operations. But sentiment was reinforced by military necessity, since just across the Potomac were the Confederate outposts, and even north of that river conditions were insecure. Baltimore was rebellious, and the secession of Maryland was not impossible.



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The safety of Washington was the first military problem of the war, and remained among the most difficult until the end.

Upon a loyal Virginian, a testy old veteran of two wars, Major-General Winfield Scott, the preliminary organization of the Union army developed. On the date of the call for troops there had been seven States in the Confederacy. Four more—North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, and Arkansas—seceded soon after the call, voicing their indignation at the proposal to use their militia to coerce their fellow-States. The strategic problem from April to July, after the defence of Washington, was the control of the border States, of which Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri were most important. The future of these was in doubt; and it will always be uncertain whether their ultimate loyalty was due the more to their convictions or to their nearness to the North which made coercion easy. To these the President, acting upon the maxim of one of his successors, “spoke softly and carried a big stick.” Appealing in every way to their Union citizens, he mobilized troops at strategic points—Washington, Cincinnati, and St. Louis—where secession tendencies could most easily be checked. The arsenal at Harper’s Ferry had been lost at the outset, but Maryland was held under a control that improved as time went on.

At the extreme west of the line of the

border States, Missouri was the seat of a civil war of her own, with rival State governments struggling for control, and both factions recognizing the strategic value of St. Louis and the mouth of the Ohio. Between Missouri and Virginia, Kentucky tried to avoid decision by proclaiming a neutrality that assumed a degree of State sovereignty quite as high as that which the seceding States maintained. But, hopeful of her ultimate adherence, the Union armies tried to respect the neutrality, until invasion of Kentucky by a Confederate force compelled a counter attack.

All along the line regiments were collecting until, in December, there were upwards of 600,000 men in camp. Reputations were rising and falling in the process of weeding out officers and proving ability. In St. Louis, in the summer, Frémont was at the height of his power, in command of the West and joining politics to war. At Cincinnati, in the late spring, a young regular, G. B. McClellan, was forcing the Ohio volunteers into shape. In front of Washington, McDowell took charge of the new regiments as they arrived for the same purpose.

On July 4, 1861, the confusion at Washington was increased by the meeting of Congress in special session to provide ways and means for the maintenance of the armies. Thus far Lincoln had acted upon his own responsibility and the slender powers given

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by the old Militia Act of 1795. The volunteer army had already begun to receive criticism because the advance on Richmond had not yet begun, and Congress added to the political pressure for fighting regardless of preparation. Even the President thought the army no worse off than that of the enemy, and that the impatient people must be given a sign that the government was at work in their behalf.

Facing Washington, and in the road of an advance against the Confederate capital, at Richmond, lay a considerable army that had been accumulating while the troops were forming in the North. The Confederate government, which had raised it, had escaped some of the embarrassments that worried Lincoln. Jefferson Davis was himself a West Pointer, with long experience in both the army and the war department. He had no existing army from which the old and incompetent senior officers must be eliminated. He was sustained unanimously by his people, once secession was a fact. From the former United States officers who applied he could select commanders as he needed them, with a discrimination founded upon personal knowledge of nearly every officer who had left West Point for thirty years. Lincoln was forced to rely upon hearsay as to reputations. Davis knew them all at first hand. And, in addition to his superior skill and knowledge, Davis was

under less political pressure than his opponent and was forced to reward fewer local politicians with commissions in the army. Moving the capital to Richmond early in June, Davis was defended by two armies, one under Joseph E. Johnston, in the Shenandoah Valley, above Harper's Ferry, and the other under Beauregard, the hero of Fort Sumter, who lay along the Potomac threatening Washington.

Against these raw Confederate forces, McDowell was compelled to move his equally raw Union army, while members of Congress, on July 21, drove out along the road to Manassas Junction to see the fight. Politicians had not yet given up the notion that it was to be a three months' war, and still expected that the first battle would break down the Confederacy. They and the people of the North hoped that this would be the battle. Along the banks of a small tributary of the Potomac, Bull Run, about twenty-five miles from Washington, the armies met on a scorching day. About equal in strength, both showed their inexperience; but the Union regiments gave way first, and the return to Washington was a disgraceful rout.

Three months after the call for troops the Confederacy, instead of being suppressed, was stronger than ever. The control of Missouri was not yet certain, and there had been no considerable Union victories any-

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where. The disaster at Bull Run deepened the gloom of the North, and suggested the thought that the war was more serious than had been anticipated. The country looked about helplessly for any man who gave promise of ability and steadiness, and who might ultimately redeem the cause.

At only one point along the military line of the border States had success rewarded the Union efforts. This was in the western counties of Virginia, where population and industry had created a condition unfavourable to the secession cause. Years before 1860 it had been prophesied that, should Virginia every carry out her threat to leave the Union, a portion of her citizens would turn the doctrine of secession against her and rend the State. Tidewater Virginia had been an old centre of the plantation South, but had been engaged in a perennial struggle for control with the upland and mountain counties which contained few slaves, and had slight sympathy with the southern social order. Extending from the Chesapeake to the Ohio, the Old Dominion contained two clearly defined areas and groups of population, of which the mountain region was always insurgent and ever for the Union. Within a month after Virginia joined the Confederacy, her western citizens organized themselves for the creation of a new, Union State, which should comprise her western end.

This division of sentiment in Virginia,

which was paralleled, though to a lesser degree, in the mountain regions of Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina, attracted the attention of Lincoln early in the controversy. One of his earliest schemes for a campaign included an army for the relief of the southern Unionists. To McClellan, in command at Cincinnati, the call for aid from western Virginia came in April and May; and toward the end of June he crossed the Ohio with some twenty-seven regiments and rallied the Unionists at Grafton. After a few trifling engagements in July, in which he drove away the enemy, he remained in possession of the mountain valleys, the only Union leader with a record of success when, on the morning after Bull Run, his country seemed most to need a general. That very day, July 22, Lincoln summoned him to Washington to supersede McDowell.

George Brinton McClellan was one of four major-generals ranking next to General Scott and commissioned by the President in May, 1861. Not quite thirty-five years of age, he possessed a training and record that would have made him prominent without his little successes in Virginia. Born in Philadelphia, the son of a physician of standing, he had been admitted to the military academy at West Point a few months under legal age, but had justified his admission by graduating second in his

class in 1846, and making the engineers' corps, which was even then the reward of the brilliant. Fresh from the academy, he went into the Mexican War, from which he emerged with credit, experience, and the brevet rank of captain. In 1848 he was detailed as instructor in engineering at West Point, and here he continued his own professional studies in the art of war. Napoleon, his hero, was equally the model of his colleagues. After three years in the classroom, he was sent out into the field to do his share in the survey for the continental railroads. First in Texas, then in the Northwest, he was engaged in the reconnoissance. By 1855 the young captain was a marked man, being sent to the field of the Crimean War to observe the European armies at close range, and making there a detailed study of comparative organization, equipment, and tactics. On his return to America with an ideal preparation for a soldier, McClellan yielded to the industrial tendencies of the prosperous fifties, and resigned his commission to become, first, the chief engineer, and then the vice-president of the newly opened Illinois Central railway. In 1860 he accepted the presidency of the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad Company, with headquarters at Cincinnati, where he settled down with a charming bride to the work of a civilian.

Upon the call for troops, McClellan went back into the harness and worked so suc-

cessfully that after Bull Run he was seized upon as the destined hero. Nominally under General Scott, he was actually in control of all the armies around Washington, and his real power was scarcely altered when on November 1, 1861, his aged chief retired to private life. Before taking up his command, McClellan had shown both the strength and the weakness that have made his place in history more difficult to fix, and more bitterly controverted, than that of any other officer of the war. As far back of 1853, when engaged under General Isaac I. Stevens on the Northern Pacific survey, he had vexed his commander by over-caution and a disposition to magnify the obstacles in his road. But he had shown a capacity for organization and preparation, which had been deepened by technical studies of European armies in those processes in which he most excelled. Had he been taught by adversity and chastened by waiting and experience, he might have risen to permanent command, for no Union officer was better endowed or trained. His phenomenal rise, however, turned his head, and he never fully justified the confidence which Lincoln placed in him. Before the battle of Bull Run, McClellan had, in his private heart, begun to patronize General Scott. "I value that old man's praise very highly," he said to his wife in a letter of July 19, "and wrote him a short note last night telling him so." In-



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three months more he spoke of a visit from the President of the United States as an interruption.

Through all the summer and fall McClellan organized his Army of the Potomac. He withdrew from the streets of Washington the military loafers, officers and men, who had infested them, set to work upon the fortifications, trained and equipped his troops, and made an army. No general of the Civil War attained a greater success than he in winning a love and popularity that were not incompatible with the highest discipline of his men, or in welding the component parts into a military unit. By November, when he succeeded General Scott in first command, his machine was regarded as ready for use; but he was still at work upon his deliberate plan "to display such an overwhelming strength as will convince all our antagonists, especially those of the governing, aristocratic class, of the utter impossibility of resistance."

The public and the government, more patient since the revelations of Bull Run, now began again to demand that he should move against the enemy. Before New Year it appeared likely that there might be two enemies, since it was learned that England was hurrying troops to Canada, had taken steps to increase her fleet upon the North Atlantic station, and was threatening instant war.

## CHAPTER V

### AFLOAT AND ABROAD

BEFORE the first troops reached Washington in response to the call for volunteers, Lincoln took the second step in suppressing the Confederacy, and at once involved the United States in the erection of a navy and in a legal argument upon the nature of the war. On April 19, 1861, he issued a proclamation declaring a blockade of the ports of the seven States of the lower South, being all those which had as yet joined the Confederacy, and announcing that interference under pretext of Confederate authority with any vessel of the United States would be regarded as piracy and treated as such. The task of making the blockade effective became the work of the new secretary of the navy, Gideon S. Welles, of Connecticut.

When this blockade was announced as a means of bringing the South to terms, the navy of the United States included some ninety vessels, whereas the seacoast to be controlled contained nearly two hundred harbours and stretched 3,549 miles from Alexandria, Virginia, to the mouth of the Rio

Grande. Most of the warships were small and antiquated; and during the next four years the navy department both built a new fleet and struggled with the complexities involved in the change from sail to steam, and, greater still, from wood to iron. Welles, a journalist, provided the administrative skill in this transition; his assistant secretary, Gustavus V. Fox, was an expert naval engineer and directed the practical work.

Without ostentation, and infrequently in the public eye, the navy did its work. Its personnel received little of the sudden praise or indiscriminate blame that unsettled the souls of officers on land. Yet "Uncle Sam's web feet" were ever active, and the President gave them ample credit:—"Wherever the ground was a little damp," he said, "they have been and made their tracks." The navy was largely free from the difficulties brought into the army by political ambition. Every village politician believed himself competent to be a colonel, if not a brigadier-general, while the public, unaccustomed to dwell upon special fitness, assumed that military capacity was inherent in all. But few fancied themselves able to command a ship without experience, and the navy was left, generally, to the control of experts.

It required a large fleet, and tiresome months of unromantic service on station, to fulfil the President's order of blockade; but

it required an even greater degree of ingenuity to explain the legal theory upon which the order was based, and to persuade the nations of the world that it was justifiable. "No State upon its own mere motion," declared Lincoln in the "Inaugural," "can lawfully get out of the Union." Upon this theory of the perpetuity of the Union he based his acts. The so-called Confederacy was, in his eye, only a conspiracy of men masquerading as States and pretending to be a nation; it was only an insurrection against the laws of the United States to be suppressed by an enlarged police. The confusion in the United States resulting from it was merely a domestic ruction, to which other nations, like friendly and discreet neighbours, were expected to be blind and deaf. This theory of the municipal character of the insurrection was satisfactory according to constitutional law, and was entitled to respect in international law so long as the United States acted upon it.

The municipal theory of the Civil War had great advantages for the administration called upon to fight it. The President can suppress insurrection as the result of his constitutional powers. He cannot, however, make war without a preceding declaration by Congress or an actual invasion by a foreign power. To admit that South Carolina had invaded the United States, admitted that she had got out of the Union, which was the fact that she desired to establish. Main-

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taining the logical impossibility of leaving the Union, the President was forced to take his ground that the States were yet inside and component members of it. No theory that could have satisfied the domestic needs of the situation could quite cover all the facts of the obvious temporary independence of the Southern States.

But in issuing the proclamation of blockade the President forgot his own asseveration that there was no war, and declared his intent to use powers which no domestic revolt, however serious, could justify. He proposed to establish an effective blockade, to seize vessels of any nation attempting to elude it, and to subject them to the processes of prize courts. As long as the disturbance was within the land, and its pacification did not involve the rights of neutral nations, the theory was adequate; but as soon as the first British blockade runner was arrested and taken into port, it was certain that Secretary Seward would have to explain how this violation of the rights of a friendly nation could take place in time of peace.

The inconsistency of the mere-insurgency theory with a proclamation of blockade appears never to have been fully realized by Lincoln, though the Supreme Court recognized it in the first case appearing before it. The resistance and the powers needed to suppress it went beyond the incidents of mob violence, and became a war; and Lincoln "was

bound to meet it in the shape it presented itself, without waiting for Congress to baptize it with a name; and no name given to it by him or them could change the fact." Thus ran the decision in the Prize Cases, which went on to point out that only a war, implying two sides and throwing other nations into the place of neutrals, can justify the rights of blockade and those of search. This was the strong contention of the United States during the Napoleonic wars, when both England and France were disposed to forget it; and it is a curious reversal of positions to see Great Britain, in 1861, solicitous over the rights of neutral States. Blind to the inconsistency, Lincoln determined to use the rights of war, yet to deny to Great Britain the privileges of neutrals.

The organization of the foreign service of the United States fell to Seward, and attracted small attention from the President. As usual, the ministers commissioned by Buchanan were recalled, one by one, and replaced by members of the ruling party. The British post was regarded as the chief appointment, as it always has been, and in the Civil War gained an added importance because the interest of Great Britain was affected more than that of all the world outside.

The Confederate States counted on the cotton crop as their means of carrying on the war. The sale of this abroad was to produce

the revenue needed by the army; while the interest of the European countries in the crop was believed to be sufficient to induce them to quarrel with the United States should a blockade attempt to interfere with it. More than five million bales of cotton were marketed by the South in 1860, nearly half of it going to the spindles of the British factories. Yearly the demand for it was strengthening. The invention of the sewing machine, revolutionizing the clothing industry, had multiplied the demand for cotton cloth, to the great profit and encouragement of the South. In England great cities lived upon the manufacture of this cloth. Should their supply be cut off starvation would confront them; and, if the southern diagnosis was correct, Great Britain would be forced to go to war on behalf of the Confederacy.

Early in 1861, Confederate agents were despatched to sound the courts of Europe and to lay in stores for the new government. Information respecting their status was sent to the American minister in London even before the inauguration. Dallas was instructed to represent to the British ministry that these agents of an insurgent government had no standing in law, and that the whole trouble was domestic. All the foreign ministers were instructed by Seward that, if the resistance should call for force, it would be out of order for governments to issue proclamations of neutrality, since there would be

no war. All were to prevent a recognition of independence at any cost.

Charles Francis Adams of Massachusetts, son of one President and grandson of another, was appointed Minister to Great Britain in April, and left Boston on May 1. The British Government to which he was commissioned was in the hands of the Liberals,—but Liberals so old in office that they had lived down the enthusiasms of youth, and were unlikely to be influenced in their conduct by any motive but the advantage of their country. Lord Palmerston, the Prime Minister, was an old man who had distrusted American politicians during a long and active life. Lord John Russell, his Foreign Secretary, was less unfriendly to Americans, but both he and Palmerston partook somewhat of the temper of the British ruling class, that knew the southerner more intimately, and liked him better than the northern business or professional man. There was a predisposition in England to sympathize with the South, regardless of slavery, which Great Britain had outlawed. Davis and his colleagues were “gentlemen,” but none had heard of Lincoln as possessing social standing or aspirations. Until it was entirely clear that slavery was the motive force of the Confederacy, this sympathy remained. It had been understood at Washington, from the despatches of Mr. Dallas, that the status to be accorded to the Confederacy by the



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British Government would not be determined until after the arrival of Mr. Adams, who reached London on May 13, 1861.

The fall of Fort Sumter and the issue of the proclamation of blockade on April 19, had changed the necessities of the situation for Lord Palmerston's Government. Except in a war, no blockade could be legal; and if this was to be a war, the close commercial ties of Great Britain to the southern ports compelled the observance of a strict neutrality. On the very day of Adams's arrival in London, and greatly to his discomfiture, Lord Russell announced that her Majesty had seen fit to issue a proclamation of neutrality, which could not avoid according belligerent rights to the Confederacy during the ensuing war. American public opinion, as blind as the Cabinet to the legal inconsistency of blockades in an insurrection, took the act as evidence of unfriendliness, if not of bad faith; and the tension in Anglo-American relations, so conspicuous throughout the war, began. Later reflection reverses the contemporary opinion; neutrality was eminently proper and, had the proclamation been put off until after the battle of Bull Inn, it might reasonably have been a proclamation of recognition.

In the middle of May, Mr. Adams took up his long diplomatic duel with Lord John Russell. Both of mature age, deliberate and unemotional, clear of vision and honest in

intention, their mutual respect steadily increased; and no difficulty ever became worse through slipshod manners on the part of either. Neutrality had been proclaimed and belligerent rights conceded in what Adams regarded as unfriendly haste, but there yet remained recognition to be prevented; while that neutrality which Great Britain had so readily assumed needed to be watched lest in practice her subjects should depart from it.

No less than the British Government, Adams had to watch the secretary of state, for the sagacious mind of Mr. Seward more than once fell into vagaries whence only the wisdom of his chief or his subordinate rescued him. Seward believed that he was to be head of the cabinet and was to dictate the policies of government. On the 1st of April, while affairs were still unsettled, he had presented a memorandum to Lincoln which took the ground that since the President had no policy the secretary was willing to provide one, and that as a counter-irritant to secession it would be wise to provoke a foreign war with England, France, or both, in order to evoke a strong national spirit which might bring back the South. Lincoln forgave and concealed the impertinence, where most men would have dismissed the offender, and used Seward as his strongest adviser until his death. He did not, however, prevent the occasional drafting of a note too

strong to be wise; and had not Adams used his own discretion when instructions were too bellicose, these would have led to an unnecessary collision. During the summer of 1861, with only disheartening news coming from the army, Adams devoted himself to the task of explaining the United States to England.

The unofficial agents of the Confederacy learned that they were being watched. In the spring they had been received informally at the Foreign Office, but under the persuasion of Adams, and convinced that the Union had a policy at last, Lord Russell finally closed his doors to them. In September the Confederate tactics changed, and the commissioners were superseded by a special mission. It was decided to send ministers to both Great Britain and France, in the hope that formal agents, fully accredited, would receive an audience.

The success at Bull Run, followed by other skirmishes along the line of the border States, determined President Davis to try the effect of simultaneous embassies to the courts of St. James and the Tuileries. The men selected to represent the Confederacy had weight, accomplishments, and local standing. John Slidell, commissioner to France, had had diplomatic experience before the war. James M. Mason, commissioned to England, ranked high among Virginia politicians. Accompanied by their families,

secretaries, servants, and hampers of provisions, for the Atlantic voyage was no vacation trip in 1861, they ran through the blockade at Charleston in October, and arrived safely in Havana, where on November 7 they took passage for Southampton. On November 8 the boat which carried them, the British mail packet "Trent," was arrested in the Bahama Channel by the United States gunboat, "San Jacinto," Captain Wilkes.

Disregarding the indignant protests of the captain of the "Trent," who had stopped his boat only after a shot had been fired across her bows, Wilkes took a strong boarding force upon the British steamer and removed the ministers and their secretaries. With these he returned to American waters, allowing the "Trent" to proceed to her destination. The prisoners were confined at Boston, while America went wild over the arrest.

Only in the light of the repeated discouragements of the first campaign, and the delay of McClellan with the army of the Potomac, can the enthusiasm which greeted the exploit of Captain Wilkes be understood. Americans, long hungry for something that looked like victory, lost their heads. Dinners and presentation swords were showered upon the captain, the House of Representatives formally thanked him, and the secretary of the navy wrote him a note of congratulation. All through November the excitement lasted,

undimmed by the thought that Great Britain might resent the act. A few of the Union leaders—Sumner, Blair, Lincoln—doubted the wisdom of the seizure from the first. Seward, pleased at the start, had a speedy second thought.

In England, the government was apprehensive of a seizure from the time it learned that commissioners were to be despatched. First came the rumour that they had escaped in a Confederate warship, in which case a seizure would have involved no one. But if, as it was later believed, the commissioners were to be taken from a British mail boat, perhaps even in the British Channel, by one of the American vessels there on station, Palmerston feared the consequences of an aroused public opinion, and gained no comfort from the law officers of the Crown. On November 11 he met a group of his legal advisers to consider the course of Great Britain if the packet should be stopped, and the passengers removed; and these advised him that an American cruiser would be justified, by British precedent, not only in a search upon the West India packet, but in a removal of the southern men and their despatches. Four days later he sought re-assurance from Adams, who disavowed any intention to remove the agents from the "Trent."

Ten days after he had calmed the fears of the Prime Minister, Adams went down into the country to a house party. There, on

November 27, he received a telegram conveying the unwelcome news that the very crisis that he had explained away had come to pass, and that Mason and Slidell had been prisoners for a week on the day of his conference with Palmerston. Dismayed at the news, certain that Palmerston would doubt his good faith, and not sure that Seward had not given way to his belligerent tendencies, Adams went up to London on the 28th, nearly convinced that there was nothing to be done. Not until December 17 did he receive an instruction on the subject from the Secretary of State, and then it was only a statement that Wilkes had acted without orders, and that the matter was under consideration.

Meanwhile, undeterred by the advice of its law officers that the United States had a right to do what it had done, the British government was threatening retaliation. "Lord Palmerston is very agreeable," the historian Bancroft had written fourteen years before; "but he belongs to the old school of British statesmen, who think John Bull is everything, and that international law, treaties, and interests of all sorts must yield to British pretensions." True to the description, the instruction to the British Minister in Washington, Lord Lyons, was dated November 30, before any explanation had been, or could have been, received. Release and apology were de-

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manded peremptorily, and additional instructions ordered the Minister to return to London with legation and archives, if these should not be granted in a week.

Long before Lord Lyons presented the ultimatum from his chief, the cabinet in Washington realized that wholesale jubilation did not cover all the facts. Besides the great embarrassment of a British war at this time, a war which could scarcely avoid accomplishing the aims of the Confederacy, the difficulty of justifying the captures by Captain Wilkes loomed up. Serious advisers at home and abroad told Seward that the act was an outrage. On a friendly vessel, between two neutral ports, individuals who were in no sense military had been arrested. Grave doubts existed as to the legality of such seizure on any terms, but Captain Wilkes had made a bad case worse by acting himself as judge and jury in taking the prisoners and releasing the carrier. Had the arrest been proper, the "Trent" ought to have been seized and sent to port for trial and condemnation or release. By Christmas, Seward saw that the captives must be given up.

On December 25 and 26 the Cabinet sat in a prolonged session over a note which Seward had written in reply to Lord Lyons's demand, and which marks the highest point reached by the secretary as a political diplomat. Laboriously he convinced his

colleagues on the main point, then read the note which, while conceding the release, made an appeal likely to soften the humiliation to his fellow-citizens. Justifying the right to arrest such individuals as these, he inquired whether the detention had been in good form and according to the legal precedents. Here he found that the British contention was "an old, honoured, and cherished American cause." Ever since the administration of Jefferson it had been the American principle, urged repeatedly in the face of British practice, that whenever property supposedly liable to condemnation was found upon a neutral vessel, the offending vessel must be carried into port. Wilkes had not done this. "If I decide this case in favour of my own Government, I must disallow its most cherished principles, and reverse and forever abandon its essential policy. The country cannot afford the sacrifice. If I maintain these principles, and adhere to that policy, I must surrender the case itself. . . . We are asked to do to the British nation just what we have always insisted all nations ought to do to us."

Shortly after the New Year, the prisoners were given up and taken to England, where they were less useful to the Confederate cause than when in an American prison. War, which had been dangerously close, was avoided. But the United States never forgave the undue haste with which Lord Palmer-



ston sent out his ultimatum and followed it with troops; while Palmerston, always suspicious of Americans, was doubly irritated by the note of Seward which, while closing the case by a compliance, made the compliance in terms unpalatable to any Briton, and of doubtful applicability to the case in hand. The prime question in the case of Mason and Slidell concerns the right of a belligerent to capture enemy property or persons, not military, on a voyage between neutral ports.

Though falling short of a war, the "Trent" affair left English opinion ready to sympathize with the successes of the Confederacy and to delight in the defeats of the United States. Adams found in the months immediately following another problem of even greater legal difficulty, which finally got beyond his control. This was the attempt of the Confederacy to build a navy.

The same reasons which kept volunteer politicians from interfering with the management of the United States navy made it hard for the Confederacy to maintain any navy. Only mariners could command. The South had not been commercial in organization and possessed but a small sea-faring element among its population. Some of the naval officers of the United States resigned; but these in their work of organizing a Confederate navy were forced to rely upon the services of foreigners for personnel and to

secure most of their material equipment abroad. A few United States' vessels were seized at the time of secession, certain merchantmen and coasters were converted into cruisers, but any large naval equipment called for different resources than those which the Confederacy contained.

The purchase and construction of ships of war was one of the first objects of Confederate diplomacy, and became the occasion of the special mission of James H. Bulloch, a former captain of the United States navy, who arrived in England in the summer of 1861. The most important of Bulloch's contracts was made with a great ship-building firm, Laird Brothers, with yards at Birkenhead, while the vessel built to his order was launched in the spring of 1862. The construction of this ship soon came to the attention of the American Minister, who at once represented to the Foreign Office the impropriety of permitting the delivery to the Confederacy of a vessel to be used against the commerce of the United States.

The duties of neutrals, according to the accepted rules of international law, do not prevent the traffic in munitions of war between their subjects and those of the belligerents, but they do forbid direct engagement in the war or the use of the neutral country as a military or naval base. Accordingly, Mr. Adams contended that since the Confederacy was under blockade

it would not be practicable to deliver the vessel into a Confederate port before commissioning her. Instead, she would start upon her career from England or the high seas, and in either case would involve the British government in a violation of neutrality.

Repeatedly during the summer of 1862 Adams urged the Foreign Office to seize "No. 290," as the offending cruiser was known upon the books of Laird Brothers. But he found the British government reluctant to see evidence pointing to her illegal character, and slow to act. When at the last minute the law officers advised that she might be held, it was too late. The ship was nearly done in July, when rumour informed the Confederate agents that arrest was probable. They acted quickly, ran her out of English waters on July 28, and took her to sea unarmed. The equipment, guns, and ammunition left England from a different port and met "No. 290" in the Azores, where she was christened "Alabama," and ran up the Confederate flag. Under the command of Raphael Semmes she set about her work, and gained a notoriety out of all proportion to her size. Her burden was only 1040 tons; her length 220 feet. The British papers chronicled her escape and chuckled at the clever shrewdness with which the law had been evaded. An unarmed vessel had left Liverpool, and could not be considered a violation of neutrality; a cargo of munitions had left a

different port in a legal traffic; where was there anything for the astute Yankee minister to lay his hands upon? The reply of Adams was that in matters maritime the intent governs the act, that violators of the law always seek to disguise their acts, that it was the duty of Great Britain to prevent evasions and to have ample laws empowering her servants to act efficiently; and, finally, that the United States would hold her responsible for every injury done by the "Alabama" or her kind.

In vain, for the present, Adams collected his evidence and presented his claims. British opinion ran high against American pretension in the second year of the war, and talk not only of mediation but of recognition was in the air. McClellan's reputed genius had accomplished little, and sober Englishmen began to think that the Confederacy would make good its determination. In a speech at Newcastle in October, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, William Ewart Gladstone, spoke of the American situation, saying, in ominous words for Mr. Adams's peace of mind: "There is no doubt that Jefferson Davis and the leaders of the South have made an army; they are making, it appears, a navy; and they have made, what is more than either—they have made a nation." So far, definitive action by the government had been warded off. The sympathies of England were clearly with

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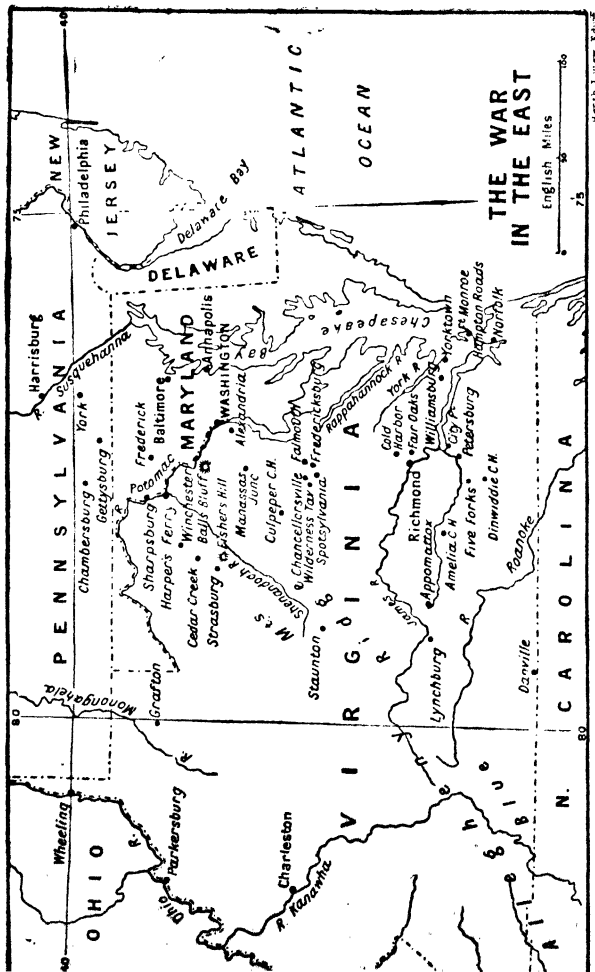
the South; but her Cabinet was unlikely to sacrifice any interest to these while the military outcome remained in doubt. For another year, until the emancipation proclamation and the Union victories had changed the outlook, Adams had constantly to be on the alert to explain, or soothe, or rebuke.

## CHAPTER VI

### 1862 : MCCLELLAN AND EMANCIPATION

"ON to Richmond" had begun to be the cry of the Union even before the fiasco of Bull Run. Temporarily silenced by the evidence of unpreparedness, it did not echo loudly again until the army of the Potomac took shape under the skilful hands of McClellan in the autumn, but through the early winter the pressure for an immediate advance increased. McClellan at his headquarters saw all the obstacles in the road of that advance.

Between the two rival capitals, Washington and Richmond, the distance as the crow flies is about one hundred miles. But the intervening country could hardly have been less adapted to the movements of armies if nature had exerted herself to discourage them. The Potomac and the James, on which the two cities lie, run nearly parallel. Between them the Rappahannock and the York, with a network of branches, cross every direct line of march, and fill with marsh and swamp, almost uncharted in 1862, such portions of the country as were



not already obstructed by dense forests. Bounded on the east by the river mouths widening into Chesapeake Bay, some sixty miles from the direct line, the region is bounded on the west, at a similar distance, by the hills of the Blue Ridge, behind which, running north-east through the great valley, the Shenandoah River waters a fertile farm land and empties into the Potomac at Harper's Ferry. Here, in an area slightly over one hundred miles square, was the battle-field which became the inevitable seat of the war in the East when the Confederacy fixed its place of government at Richmond, the capital of Virginia. Regardless of its military importance or strategic value, which was slight, eastern Virginia was forced to the front because of the necessity upon each government to defend its capital and threaten that of the enemy. Always an embarrassment to either government, yet not decisive upon the outcome of the war, the fighting between Washington and Richmond was on a larger and more costly scale than any other.

The Napoleonic plan which McClellan had conceived in 1861 involved the creation at Washington of an army of a quarter-million or more, with which, overawing all resistance, he could march through Richmond to the southern limit of the Confederacy. The project might not have been impossible had either people or government



been willing to wait until the gigantic force was ready for use. Before the year was over, Lincoln thought that an advance upon Richmond, at least, might be begun, and was disposed to urge it along the direct line because such an advance would keep the Army of the Potomac always between Washington and the enemy. In vain he struggled to get McClellan to move before Christmas, or in the early spring; and when the general finally consented to start, he had changed his plan, abandoned the direct attack, and determined to ship his force by sea to the Peninsula between the York and the James, up which he might march upon Richmond with less natural obstruction to overcome. Grateful for movement on any plan, Lincoln co-operated with the manœuvre, only stipulating that Washington must not be left uncovered. Over the interpretation of this stipulation the Peninsular campaign of 1862 broke down.

It was the belief of McClellan that a vigorous attack upon Richmond would be Washington's best defence. It would compel the enemy to concentrate his whole army at his own threshold. But Lincoln's advisers were nervous unless an actual army was stationed around the District of Columbia; and as soon as McClellan had started the President yielded to political pressure and organized three armies for the greater security of the capital. One was in western Virginia, where

there was no enemy, but where Frémont, who must have a command, could be stationed; another was in the Shenandoah Valley under Banks, guarding the "back door" to Washington; the third was under McDowell at Washington. It is the opinion of many military experts that this caution of the President was both needless and unwise, and that McClellan's plan was right; yet without these troops, diverted from his command for political reasons, McClellan started up the Peninsula in the spring in 1862 with a larger army than could be placed in the field against him.

The Confederate army, acting upon the orders of President Davis, who believed himself a great strategist, was organized for a defensive campaign around Richmond and contained among its leaders two generals who would have been famous in any company, and who outclassed McClellan. The Union army, during April and May, advanced up the Peninsula, from Yorktown to Williamsburg, across the Chickahominy, and was almost in sight of the city of Richmond before General Robert E. Lee left his desk, where he had been chief military adviser to Davis, to take command of the Confederate army. After two months of hard fighting, McClellan had about 100,000 men before Richmond in June. Lee had 30,000 less. But the campaign had already been made a failure by the exertions of "Stonewall" Jackson.

It was at Bull Run, in 1861, that Thomas Jonathan Jackson, a Virginia Scotch-Irishman, having placed his brigade in the strongest position in the Confederate line, held it there until he had earned the nickname "Stonewall." Neither his brilliancy nor his profound strategy had come to him by accident. A deliberate student of military history, he had taught himself the larger things which he had not learned at West Point or in the Mexican War. For ten years before the Civil War he was professor in a Virginia military school for boys, preparing against the day when he should return to the field. Honest, narrow, devout, no reputation of the Civil War is more secure or picturesque than his. A tremendous lover of truth in private life, as a commander he deceived and misled every one but himself, keeping the enemy entirely ignorant of his movements until they were accomplished, and giving even his friends little inkling of his real intent. Like the old Puritans, he fought best after prayer. "The General," said his body-servant, Jim, "is a great man for prayin'. He pray night and mornin'—all times. But when I see him get up several times in the night, an' go off an' pray, *den I know there is goin' to be somethin' to pay*, an' I go right away and pack his haversack."

While McClellan was yet marching up the Peninsula, Jackson in the Shenandoah Valley was endangering his campaign. Through

April and May he created the impression of having a large force ready to plunge down the Valley the instant McClellan got away. Masking both his intentions and his small force, he first deceived and then defeated Banks, who commanded the Union army in the Valley, and frightened Lincoln into efforts to crush him by the concerted movements of the three armies of Frémont, Banks, and McDowell. Jackson eluded the attack, and as soon as it was thoroughly under way he slipped out of the Valley, reporting in Richmond with his army in the end of June. He had tied up a great and useless Union force on the Shenandoah, and was now ready to help Lee with McClellan.

Whether McClellan needed McDowell's army or not is a matter for military critics, but there can be no difference of opinion that the diversion created by Jackson's manœuvre broke his confidence. By the last week in June the success of his campaign was questionable. Through July he only held his own. And in August the Army of the Potomac was recalled from the Peninsula. McClellan reported his return to Washington a day or two before his successor in the public favour collapsed.

If there had been nothing to offset McClellan's campaign, the spring of 1862 would have been indeed doleful. The British-built Confederate navy was getting to sea; and the public had not yet realized how

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important were the armies in the West. But the navy, non-political and efficient, was making progress. Its first triumph closed the period of the wooden battleship.

Early in 1862 the naval defence of Washington was endangered by the Confederates' possession of an iron-clad hulk, seized and armoured after the abandonment of the Norfolk navy yard, and re-christened the "Merrimac." Before the impregnable "Merrimac," frigate after frigate collapsed, until on March 9 she met the new invention of Ericsson, the turret "Monitor." No battleship less orthodox than the "Monitor" in her appearance ever floated; nor did any look less dangerous than she, with her small cylindrical gun-house upon her nearly submerged deck. But the naval duel in Hampton Roads that day determined the course of naval construction for two generations, and rendered obsolete nearly every navy in the world. Yet the old frigates of the United States navy did some more service before they were broken up. In April Farragut, wearied with the difficulties of blockading the many mouths of the Mississippi, sailed up the river, ran the forts, and took possession of New Orleans. With General Butler in command of the conquered city, New Orleans ceased to be a menace to the Union cause. Not squeamish in methods, and perhaps willing to profit by illicit trade, the latter nevertheless showed himself a

competent ruler in cleansing the town and managing its affairs.

While McClellan was winding up his campaign and complaining of the refusal of Lincoln to let him have McDowell, the administration had found new commanders and had placed its trust in them. These were Halleck, who, having superseded Frémont in the West, was now made general-in-chief, and military adviser at Washington, and Pope, who was called from the Mississippi Valley to command the three armies of Frémont, Banks, and McDowell. Pope was even less successful than McClellan had been, and lacked both the popularity and the prestige of his predecessor. Toward the end of August he was out-generalled and out-fought at the second battle of Bull Run; and on September 2, in despair and against the wishes of his cabinet, Lincoln called upon McClellan to resume command.

It was high time for some one to take command. Lee, encouraged by his unwarranted success in frightening Washington and neutralizing the Peninsular attack, had determined to carry the war into the North by way of the Shenandoah Valley. He still hoped that Maryland might rise against the oppressor and that it might be possible to dictate a peace on northern soil. There was no better general to rally and reorganize the discouraged Union armies than McClellan; but before his new command was two weeks

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old he again missed his chance. Through a captured despatch he learned of a risky division of Lee's army, leaving either half at his mercy for a few hours. He thought it over all night instead of moving on the instant, and Lee closed up before it was too late. Paralleling Lee's army, as it moved north, McClellan had more than twice his numbers. On September 17, 1862, the armies met along the banks of Antietam Creek, near Sharpsburg, Maryland, where Lee made a brilliant stand. McClellan entered the fight with 87,000 Union troops, and with rifled cannon, with which to oppose Lee's ragged 50,000. The aggregate losses ran to more than 20,000, and at the end of the day Lee, escaping in defiance of all the laws of strategy, started his retreat. The southern discouragement at the complete failure of Maryland to rise to expel the Union forces was surpassed by northern grief and bitterness that McClellan had not crushed Lee, and would not follow him in vigorous pursuit.

Without molestation the Confederate army returned into Virginia, and the first invasion of the North was over. McClellan settled down to reorganize and rest. The hints and orders of the President that he should cross the Potomac and resume the fight, he disregarded. Here, as elsewhere, he failed to realize that public opinion was a force to be estimated and accounted for, not to be ignored, and that it was Abraham Lincoln who was com-

mander-in-chief of the armies and President of the United States. Five weeks after Antietam, McClellan entered Virginia, having allowed Lee ample time to prepare to receive him. In the first week in November he had an advance in contemplation. But on November 7 he was relieved of his command by Lincoln, who had at last yielded to the critics. Unsatisfactory as McClellan was, he had no known superior in the Union ranks, and Burnside, his second successor, failed as signally as Pope. But this time his military eclipse was final. As a spectator he watched the rest of the war, gaining comfort from the sympathies of his adherents and considering himself the victim of vicious politics. "I think that I have done all that can be asked in twice saving the country," was his reflection.

The career of McClellan illustrates the unhappy mixture of politics and war that impeded the Union cause. In the Confederacy, independence was the one important object. To it all other needs were subordinate. But Lincoln was forced not only to maintain the Union, but to keep together a majority that could control his party and his Congress, in order that such maintenance might be assured. The unquestioning loyalty of the spring of 1861 never returned. The Democratic party resumed its old work of obstruction. Republican radicals and conservatives both added their embarrassments.



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In no phase of his policy was his task more intricate during 1862 than it was with the citizens of the border States.

During the political campaign of 1860, through the trying months before his inauguration, and as late as the battle of Bull Run, Lincoln and his party stood steadily for the permanence of the Union, no aggression against slavery in the States, and the restoration of the Constitution as it was before secession. But public opinion developed during 1861, until it became apparent to all that slavery was the fundamental cause of the loss of peace and life and property afflicting the United States. It became doubtful whether even the Union could be preserved ; but if it was, the spirit which maintained it could not be content until it had ended not only the fact of resistance to the law but the cause which had produced it. Yet four slave States stood loyal to the Union. The abolition of slavery by force of arms or of determined majority would fall as the unfair reward for their loyalty upon the shoulders of the citizens of the border States. To avert this injustice and satisfy the rights of these States before the collapse of slavery, which he anticipated, was Lincoln's hope in the winter of 1861 and 1862.

The temper of the Union respecting slavery, with which Lincoln had to deal in his negotiations, came out in the army, in Congress, and in public opinion. Twice he found that

subordinate officers went more rapidly than he could follow. Frémont, in August, 1861, issued a military order of confiscation which emancipated the slaves of persons in insurrection against the United States within his department. Abolitionists throughout the North received the proclamation with joy, —which may have been Frémont's motive for issuing it, —but Lincoln, after vainly giving the author a chance to modify it, himself disallowed it in a general order. In the next spring, Hunter, within a southern department, issued a similar order, which was likewise recalled. The comments throughout the North upon these unauthorized acts would have convinced a less sagacious politician than Lincoln that opinion was shifting. In December, 1861, Congress, which had resolved in July that the war was only for the Union, refused to re-enact the resolution.

Lincoln continued to maintain that under no conditions could Congress touch slavery in the States; but there were other regions whose dependence upon that branch of the government was a prime article of the Republican creed. Slavery, in the District of Columbia and in the Territories, early came under attack, and was abolished in both before the summer of 1862. The disposition to abolish was not entirely humanitarian; in part it was vindictive, and the desire to punish, which could not encompass aboli-

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tion in the States, revealed itself in acts of confiscation. The war session of Congress, in 1861, passed a confiscation act which may be regarded as the first formal step against slavery. Butler, in Virginia, had already devised the term "contraband of war," to apply to slaves escaping into Union lines, and had used the contraband as camp labourers. The law of August, 1861, declared the confiscation of all persons or property used against the United States. Lincoln signed the act reluctantly, for retaliation was far from his desire. He was for ever looking forward to the time when the war would be over, and every act of unnecessary cruelty would be a bar to reconciliation. The second confiscation act, of July, 1862, was even further from his wish. This declared that after sixty days all the property of persons holding military or civil office under the Confederacy should be liable to public confiscation. It is notable among civil wars that these acts were never fully carried out. Save in a few isolated instances, the most notable being Arlington, the home of General Lee, such property as was taken by the United States was restored at the close of the war. No general confiscation or proscription was ever applied.

The temper toward the South shown in the debates on these measures served notice on Lincoln that, Constitution or no Constitution, the slavery matter was imminent,

and he tried to save the border States. Compensated emancipation, with the consent of those concerned, was the measure which he advocated as just and expedient. It was just, because the holder of slave property had in no way violated the law, or the tradition of his region, and ought not to be forced to carry the whole cost of a change in national sentiment. It was expedient because it would at once reward those who had been loyal in a time of stress, and discourage the enemy. After citizens of Maryland or Kentucky had sold their slaves to the United States there would be no chance of their ever joining the Confederacy ; while the financial advantage given to them might easily induce citizens of the Confederacy to press for peace and compensation. Indeed it was a habit of Lincoln to figure out the number of days in which the cost of keeping up the Union armies would equal the value of all the slaves, and to urge that if only as a measure of economy it would pay to purchase every slave in the United States.

Acting upon his policy, Lincoln, in March, 1862, urged Congress to offer to co-operate with any State desiring to emancipate its slaves, and held during the spring and summer a series of conferences with representatives of the border States in which he urged his measure upon them. Congress responded favourably to the President's suggestion, but the border States refused to act. Self-interest

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as well as obstinacy stood in the road of their compliance. In 1862 secession had not been proved a failure, and if the South were ever recognized as independent the border States would desire to join the Confederacy. The credit of the United States at this time was none too good. Its bonds, in which payment for slaves would probably have been made, were below par, and should the Union fail and the bonds collapse, the border citizens would have lost both their slaves and their remuneration. Beside interest, as it appeared to the border States, there also stood in the road of adjustment the reluctance of Democrats to co-operate heartily in any measure urged by Lincoln. By the middle of July Lincoln gave up his idea of compensated emancipation as hopeless, but reached at the same time the conclusion that emancipation was bound to come.

Congress could not emancipate a single slave in any State, but Lincoln believed that the President, as commander-in-chief, in time of war, could properly harass the enemy by an attack upon their property. John Quincy Adams had long since told his southern opponents that the only menace to slavery was the war power of the President, which they threatened to provoke. And now Lincoln reached the conviction that only a military emancipation could save the Union. It was not the slave that he considered primarily, though he adhered to his belief

that "If slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong." When in the summer Horace Greeley joined the throng of abolitionists that were worrying the President to convert the war into a war against slavery, Lincoln had already reached his conclusion but had not announced it. Greeley called his manifesto "The Prayer of Twenty Millions of People," and it was typical of the man and the reformer. Extreme, ill-founded, far from true in the numerical backing which it claimed, it is only another evidence of the popular pressure. To it, Lincoln replied in a personal letter which went directly to the point, and revealed himself as standing where he always had stood. "My paramount object is to save the Union, and not either to save or destroy slavery," he wrote. "If I could save the Union without freeing any slave, I would do it. And if I could save it by freeing all the slaves, I would do it. And if I could save it by freeing some, and leaving others alone, I would also do that." On the constitutional side, if any slaves were to be freed nothing short of a constitutional amendment, save the war power of the President, could accomplish it.

When the border States refrained from accepting the principle of compensated emancipation, Lincoln determined that he must go along without them, and that at a suitable time it would be expedient to rally the North and discourage the Confederacy by executive

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emancipation. The first draft of his proclamation was written early in July, but it was not communicated to the cabinet until towards the end of the month, after Congress had adjourned. Then it was presented for information, not for debate. The man whom Seward had accused of having neither policy nor ability to frame one, had reached his conclusion unaided, and had announced it at his own time. Verbal amendments to the proclamation were made, but the only serious criticism came from the Secretary of State, who questioned the expediency of issuing such a proclamation after as disastrous a campaign as the Peninsula had been. Issued in July or August, it would appear as a desperate effort in a forlorn cause. Convinced by the suggestion, Lincoln withheld the proclamation and prayed for such a victory as might give it a proper appearance. When Pope collapsed at second Bull Run, his disappointment was great. When McClellan managed to check Lee at Antietam with nearly twice the latter's force, it was decided that a good-enough victory, at least the only one in sight, had been attained.

On September 22, 1862, Lincoln issued the preliminary proclamation of emancipation. Announcing first his continued belief in the principle of compensation, and calling attention to the confiscation acts of Congress, he declared that on January 1, 1863, "all persons held as slaves within any State or

designated part of a State the people whereof shall be in rebellion against the United States shall be then, thenceforward, and for ever free.”

The North was taken by surprise when the emancipation proclamation appeared, and misunderstood its bearings then, as it has, generally, ever since. Slavery was not affected by the preliminary proclamation, or by the final proclamation, which appeared on January 1, in any of the border States, or in any portion of the Confederacy not in actual resistance to the United States. Over citizens of the United States not engaged in insurrection the President could have no control, and claimed none. So far as his act had legal weight, it applied only to persons within what he designated as the rebellious area in his final proclamation. Yet so long as these remained rebellious and continued to acknowledge only the jurisdiction of the Confederate government, they could not be reached and the proclamation could not be enforced against them. After they had submitted in any portion of the area, and become peaceful, it is highly doubtful whether any act of the President sequestering their property was lawful. Only impeachment could punish him for not aiding them to recover their property, but it is hard to believe that any United States court would have decided that their title to their slaves was extinguished. The emancipation



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proclamation did not free the slaves; but it served notice that the war had become an attack upon slavery as well as disunion, while legal steps sanctioned the policy announced by Lincoln in less than three years.

Emancipation by constitutional amendment had been urged in many Congresses, and was defeated by adverse majorities until the end of 1864. After 1862 it became an administration measure, but the passage of an amendment accomplishing it was deferred until February, 1865. In the ten ensuing months the States gave it their support. Three-fourths of all, as the Constitution prescribes, had approved it when Seward issued, on December 18, 1865, his proclamation declaring that the "thirteenth amendment" had been adopted. Incorporating in its body the phrases of the memorable northwest ordinance of 1787, it declared that "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude . . . shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

The hope of Lincoln that the emancipation proclamation would consolidate the North behind him was not realized at once. Abroad, the feeling towards the United States immediately grew better, but at home his act only widened the cleavage among factions, and brought him rebuke at the congressional elections of 1862. Seward had believed, in the loyal outburst after Sumter, that all party lines in the North were gone; but they

were only submerged in a tide of emotion that ebbed away in the second year of the war.

At best, Lincoln was supported by a temporary fusion of diverse elements. The abolitionists were the radicals among his backers and had Chase as their spokesman in the Cabinet. Seward represented the moderate Republicans who were unionists above all else. The war Democrats, who had voted for Douglas, and like him had stood by the Union, claimed McClellan as one of their number and were reached by Stanton, Secretary for War. Bates and Blair were border State Democrats, whose friends expected the Union to be maintained without damage to slavery. No single faction could control a majority in the North, and it was not certain that any single one could be spared. Yet to harmonize their interests was an almost impossible task, and more nearly broke down in the fall of 1862 than at any other time. Always among the avowed opposition were conservatives who sympathized with the South, and denied the constitutionality of coercion. "Copperheads," as they came to be called, they harassed the President in his every act, and varied in conduct from open support of the Confederacy to severe criticism of the policy of the administration. Lincoln was never a good executive chief or disciplinarian. He rarely thought in terms of efficient administration.

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More than once he tried to save law-breakers whose friends were necessary to his policy. But the fact that he managed, in any way, to conduct the Union cause, with the sort of backing that he had, places him at the head of the world's consummate politicians.

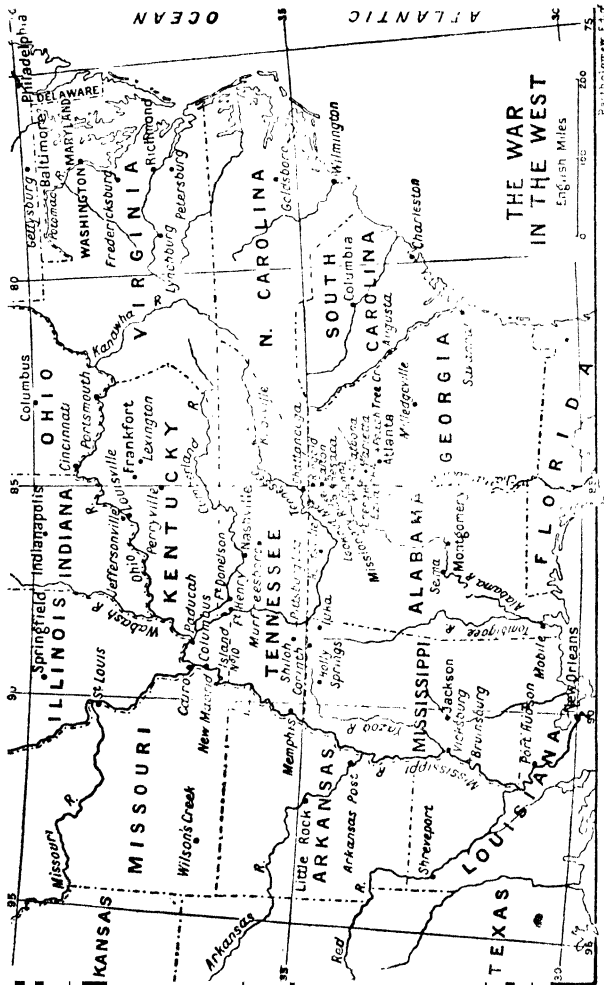
The immediate result of the emancipation proclamation was discouraging. Its critics outshouted its supporters in the North. In the elections conservatives everywhere gained a hearing and unseated numerous Republicans. In 1860 Lincoln had carried every northern State except New Jersey. In 1862 his party was ousted in a solid tier of States north of the border:—New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin. Only by a bare majority did the Republicans retain their control of Congress; and it is fair to regard the election as a general vote of censure implying lack of confidence in the administration. The backwoods lawyer, whom political manipulation had seated in the White House, had not yet convinced his country of his essential greatness. His followers were only just beginning to identify the Republican party with the Union, and to maintain that the defeat of either would involve the downfall of the other. The war, however, had to go on. McClellan was dismissed immediately after the election, and the country entered upon the darkest eight months in its history.

## CHAPTER VII

### 1862 : THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

THE war in the West was not confined to a narrow arena, bounded by two rival capitals, and embracing an area that remained for four long years unchanged. Instead, it ranged from the Ohio River to the Gulf of Mexico, and followed up the tributaries of the Mississippi until it reached the limit of Confederate resistance, wherever that might be. It contained few scenes of marching up and down, with loud confusion, voluminous dust, and lack of progress, but was a continuous development, from the days of 1861, when loyal citizens of Missouri were organized into a committee of safety, until, after four years, the armies of the West completed their advance down the Mississippi Valley, around the Alleghany Range, and up against the armies of Virginia from the South.

The centre of the stage in that great western theatre of war was the mouth of the Ohio River, where the straggling town of Cairo stood on stilts to avoid the floods which repeatedly washed over the southern tip of Illinois. Here, within a radius of twenty-



# THE WAR IN THE WEST

English Miles

0 100 200

Philadelphia

FLORIDA

NEW ORLEANS

TEXAS

LOUISIANA

MISSISSIPPI

ALABAMA

GEORGIA

SOUTH CAROLINA

N. CAROLINA

VIRGINIA

WEST VIRGINIA

MARYLAND

DELAWARE

PATHE NEW E.L.C.

five miles, is the centre of the Mississippi Valley, whence easy routes of communication lead in every direction. The Ohio River, with its extensive northern tributaries, great canals, and numerous railroads, afforded to all the North ready access to this point. Entering the Ohio, from the south, only a few miles above its mouth, come two other rivers of almost equal importance. The Cumberland, sweeping down from the mountains of eastern Kentucky, could be ascended easily to Nashville, the capital of Tennessee. South of the Cumberland, and parallel to it near its mouth, the Tennessee empties into the Ohio the drainage of several States. The Mississippi River, carrying the waters of all these, gives the broadest of natural highways to the sea.

In a country sparsely settled, where no large army could live upon the near-by land, but must carry with it all its food, munitions, and clothing, transportation routes were of supreme importance. The rivers dominating the South-west were supplemented by two great railways, and an uncompleted third, that fixed by their location the strategic centres subordinate to the mouth of the Ohio. Some twenty miles below Cairo, on the Mississippi, at Columbus, Kentucky, was the northern terminus of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, which ran parallel to the Mississippi and furnished connections to New Orleans and Mobile. At right angles

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to this road, and not far south of the great bend of the Tennessee River, ran the most important east and west railway of the South, the Memphis and Charleston. Cairo, Columbus, and the mouths of the Cumberland and Tennessee constituted the primary strategic centre; the secondary centres were in a line along this road, at Memphis, where it touched the Mississippi, at Corinth, where it crossed the Mobile and Ohio, and at Chattanooga, in eastern Tennessee, where it touched the Tennessee River and was met by other roads from both Georgia and Virginia. South of the Memphis and Charleston, and parallel to it, another line to the east extended from Vicksburg, through Jackson, into Alabama and Georgia. It was completed after the war began.

The Civil War was well advanced before the importance of the western field was recognized. Habit, as well as Washington and Richmond, turned general attention towards the East. In the West heavy fighting went almost unnoticed save by the north-west States whose boys were being killed, and generals acquired real skill in the routine performance of their duties before the public discovered their existence, and put them in the illuminated places of eminence.

Missouri, the old storm centre of the slavery quarrel, was torn to pieces by the divergent forces of Union and secession. Her governor in 1861, a rampant secessionist, thought

to organize his State for the Confederacy. "Your requisition, in my judgment," he replied to Lincoln on the call for volunteers, "is illegal, unconstitutional, and revolutionary in its object, inhuman and diabolical, and cannot be complied with." Opinion in St. Louis ran high. On a street car a spluttering youth was heard to bluster that "Things have come to a —— pretty pass when a free people can't choose their own flag. Where I come from if a man dares to say a word in favour of the Union we hang him to a limb of the first tree we come to." He subsided only when his neighbour retorted that "after all, we are not so intolerant in St. Louis as we might be; I have not seen a single rebel hung yet, nor heard of one; there are plenty of them who ought to be, however." The youth's excitement was provoked by the seizure, in May, of the arsenal, and the arrest of the Confederate militia by the combined efforts of Francis P. Blair, Jr., and a captain of the regular army, Nathaniel Lyon.

During the summer months, until his death at Wilson's Creek in August, Lyon held Missouri. There was heavy fighting in the southern half of the State, nominally directed by Major-General John C. Frémont, from his headquarters in St. Louis. But until Frémont was removed in November no constructive plan was adopted for the protection of the division of the West. Hal-



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leck, who succeeded him, had command of the Union forces of the upper Mississippi Valley, and as far east as the Cumberland River. Next to him, in Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky, Buell was in charge.

The strategic importance of the Cairo region was acted upon by the Confederate leaders before it was seen elsewhere. Leonidas Polk, after he had laid aside his bishopric and gone back to the army of his youth, seized the river end of the Mobile and Ohio railway, at Columbus, Kentucky, and began the fortification of the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers at points where they are only twelve miles apart, near the southern boundary of Kentucky. His superior officer, Albert Sidney Johnston, in command of the western forces of the Confederacy, followed up Polk's design, hurried on the construction of the Cumberland and Tennessee forts, and stretched his line up into central Kentucky. With divisions of his army in western, middle, and eastern Tennessee, he prepared for a general advance through Kentucky to the Ohio River, despite the neutrality which Governor Magoffin of that State had excitedly proclaimed. The keen regard of the Confederate leaders for the sovereignty of their own States was blunted in the case of a neutral State. When Halleck took command in November, 1861, Johnston had been perfecting his first line of defence for two months.

The first step against Johnston was taken in September by one of Frémont's subordinates named Grant, a retired regular captain, who had entered a volunteer regiment of Illinois, and had speedily been given a brigade of the inexperienced, disorderly, western regiments. At the end of August, Grant was assigned control of Missouri and Illinois, below St. Louis; and on September 4 he established his headquarters at Cairo, which he estimated at once at its strategic importance. A few days later he seized commanding stations at the mouths of the Cumberland and Tennessee, and kept garrisons not only at Cairo but at Paducah. The citizens of the latter had expected to welcome the Confederate outposts when Grant moved in. The "neutral" governor of Kentucky inquired by what right the sovereignty of the State was thus invaded. When Halleck arrived, Grant had the nucleus of an army waiting for him at the place where it could best be used.

While McClellan was drilling along the Potomac, Grant lay waiting at Cairo with a few regiments. The way to attack Johnston's line of defence was obvious; but not until the middle of the winter would Halleck authorize a joint movement by Grant and the gunboats on the river against the Confederate forts that closed the Cumberland, Tennessee, and Mississippi to further advance,—forts Donelson, Henry, and Island

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No. 10. The day after the orders to move on Fort Henry were received, the expedition was on its way. The spirit of its leader, who had almost no professional soldiers under him, has a novel ring among the notes of protest and explanation that crowd the records. Movements were slow because of mud and rain, he wrote; this, however, "will operate worse upon the enemy, if he should come out to meet us, than upon us." With a celerity not seen thus far in any operation of the war, the first Confederate line was broken.

The advance upon Fort Henry began on February 2, and ended four days later in the surrender of the fort. Its commander had foreseen the futility of a stand here, and had slipped out most of his troops, marching them across the narrow neck of land to Fort Donelson, before the attack began. The whole Confederate line was thrown into a panic by the prospect of a movement on Donelson, since, should this fall, Nashville lay undefended, and Tennessee would be opened to the Union invader.

Immediately upon the capture of Fort Henry, Grant prepared to take Fort Donelson, and called upon Halleck for reinforcements. Before the gunboats could go down the Tennessee and come back up the Cumberland the army had invested the fort and its 20,000 defenders with some 15,000 men, who were shortly reinforced to

27,000. The panic existing within the Confederate army was unknown to Grant; but he, as well as Johnston, could see the strategic outcome.

Within Fort Donelson private apprehensions were added to public fears. Floyd, in command, had been Secretary of War in Buchanan's cabinet, and was popularly believed to have betrayed his post by distributing United States stores where the Confederacy could get them. His dishonest intent has been well-nigh explained away, but the incompetence which he had shown in the war department, added to his fear of personal capture, destroyed what small usefulness he had. With the concurrence of his subordinates, he fled. His second in command, Pillow, escaped with him. Buckner, the third in rank, stood by the fort, loaded up the haversacks of his men, and organized a sortie in the hope of saving the army.

On the morning of February 15, the United States army stood, wet and unhappy, on the rough, frozen mud around Fort Donelson. Its commander was holding a conference with Foote aboard one of the gunboats in the Cumberland, and was contemplating the unpleasantness of a siege. As he landed for the ride back to camp, he learned that the Confederates had started an attack. Surprised by this, for he had had no idea of having a fight unless he provoked it, Grant hurried back. He understood Buckner's plan

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to escape only when he knew that the troops were carrying their haversacks. To rally his startled brigades, and spring a counter attack against that portion of the Confederate line which was being abandoned, took little time. Not over 4,000 got away; the others returned to the fort. At daybreak on the 16th the Union commander could send in his laconic reply to a request for terms: "No terms except an unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted. I propose to move immediately upon your works." Buckner surrendered nearly 15,000 troops that day. Nine days later, Nashville, the capital of Tennessee, was occupied by detachments from both Grant and Buell, without a fight.

The spectacular capture of forts Henry and Donelson, coming at a time when McClellan was just preparing to move into the Peninsula, and when Union victories were few and far between, made Grant a major-general of volunteers and ended the period of hearty co-operation from his chief, Halleck. Though rebuffing Grant's first overtures upon the campaign, Halleck had finally worked earnestly with Grant and Foote. Official credit for the success came to him as chief in command, and his department was extended to include the army of Buell. Hereafter his support ceased to be either regular or vigorous, and suspicions of the competence of Grant entered his mind. So suspicious was

he, that the immediate advance up the rivers which Grant desired was forbidden, until Johnston had organized his defence along the second Confederate line, Memphis, Corinth, and Chattanooga.

The logical termination of the Donelson campaign was left to Pope, who was, in March, sent against the forts in the Mississippi near New Madrid and Island No. 10. After manœuvring the enemy out of the village, with the co-operation of Foote's gunboats he compelled the surrender of the island, receiving some 7000 prisoners from its garrison. Missouri hereafter was detached from the main Confederate line, and though much fighting remained to be done, in a population that was divided against itself, it ceased to play a part in the larger strategy of the war.

Upon the extension of his command in March, Halleck directed from St. Louis two considerable armies in the field, that of Buell at Nashville, and that of Grant at Fort Henry. It is difficult to prove that he had a deliberate plan of campaign. The most probable aim appears to have been to unite the two forces at some point on the Tennessee River, near the crossing of the Mobile and Ohio and the Memphis and Charleston railways, from which point the latter railway could be broken. He hoped to induce the enemy to retreat from Corinth. The destruction of the hostile army appears not to have been

undertaken. It was the occupation of points that dominated Halleck's mind. Remote from the scene of action, perplexed by a double manœuvre, and aggravated by the political situation in Missouri, he rarely knew the exact status at the front, and directed a less successful campaign than his subordinates could have carried out alone, or than he would have carried out if in the field.

The success of the occupation of the line of the Memphis and Charleston depended upon the celerity with which Grant and Buell brought their armies together, before the Confederate line could be re-formed. Johnston had withdrawn his force from central Kentucky upon the fall of Nashville, and had hurried from Murfreesboro to Huntsville, in Alabama, and thence down the left bank of the Tennessee towards Corinth. At Corinth, Beauregard organized the troops on the left of the Confederate line. By the last week in March the two forces had been joined without interference, Johnston had assumed command of the whole, and was preparing not only to destroy Grant and Buell, in succession, but to march across the lost region to the Ohio. He had 50,000 troops, with whom to march, as he told them, "to a decisive victory over the agrarian mercenaries sent to subjugate and despoil you of your liberties." It was a fiction much used in proclamations by Confederate leaders that the northern troops

were both cowards and mercenaries, while theirs were gentle, brave, and chivalrous. Yet the Confederate, Bragg, only a few days before this proclamation of Johnston, had written that the whole country "seems paralyzed. . . . The unrestrained habits of plunder and pillage have done much to produce this state of affairs and reconcile the people of the country to the approach of the enemy, who certainly do them less harm than our own troops."

Grant had been prevented from acting quickly by the perplexing and contradictory orders of Halleck ; but toward the end of March he threw his army into camp along the left bank of the Tennessee, at Pittsburg Landing, while Buell, entirely independent of his control, was hurrying up from the northeast. Neither Grant, nor Sherman, in whom he placed complete confidence, anticipated a vigorous attack from Johnston, and the disorder which prevailed in the Union camp is explained rather than excused by the extreme rawness of his troops. Most of the men had never been under fire, or even seen the enemy. When, in the early morning of April 6, Johnston opened a general engagement, it was several hours before the Union leaders realized that it was more than one of the skirmishes that had amused their outposts daily for two weeks. When they learned the magnitude of the attack, it was almost too late to save the day.



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With somewhat over 40,000 troops, Johnston entered at daybreak upon a pitched battle, that raged all day between Shiloh Church and Pittsburg Landing, and left his army that night on the Union line, to eat the captured rations and sleep in federal tents. Grant had some 2000 more, and always maintained that, without aid, he could have won the battle. On both sides, regiments broke and fled repeatedly, the incessant hammering getting on the nerves of the green farmers' boys in either army. Johnston himself was slain in the afternoon while trying to rally one frightened regiment. His successor, Beauregard, prepared that night to fight it out on the 7th, and telegraphed to Richmond that victory was already won. "I am able to announce to you, with entire confidence," wrote Davis in a special message to the Confederate Congress, "that it has pleased Almighty God to crown the Confederate arms with a glorious and decisive victory over our invaders."

The Confederate rejoicing was somewhat premature, however. On the night of the 6th, Buell came up with 20,000 fresh troops in the Army of the Ohio. They were tired with forced marching, but their nerves had not been unstrung by fight and slaughter. On the morning of the 7th they took the front, and before the day was done the Confederate army was in retreat towards Corinth.

Among the battles of the Civil War, this

engagement at Shiloh, or Pittsburg Landing, as southern writers prefer to call it, has evoked more acrimonious dispute than any other. On any basis it was a great fight, with 100,000 men engaged, and 20,000 of them killed or wounded at the close of the second day. It has been asked,—Was Grant surprised?—Was he defeated on the 6th?—Did Buell's army save him? The armies of the Tennessee and the Ohio have answered all these questions differently when gathered at their camp-fires and reunions. In part, they will remain forever unanswered, but it seems clear from Grant's own words that he was unprepared for an engagement of such magnitude. Yet he kept his courage, re-formed his broken lines, admitted no defeat, and it is by no means certain that Buell's army was indispensable to his salvation.

McClellan, in the East, was still worrying his way up the Peninsula when Shiloh added the second to the great Union victories in the West. Halleck, aroused by the size of the battle, hurried down from St. Louis to reorganize the armies, and resume his scrutiny of Grant. Donelson had begun with Grant absent from the field; at Shiloh he was unprepared; and his chief may be pardoned for wondering whether the victories were won because of Grant's efforts, or in spite of them.

The advance of the army had been slow when Halleck directed it from St. Louis;

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with him in camp it was still more deliberate than Beauregard's retreat to Corinth. Slowly and carefully, as all the books of military tactics prescribe, Halleck made his steps toward the railway crossing that had been the objective of his campaign. When he was at last ready to assault, Beauregard evacuated Corinth. Memphis fell of its own weight when Corinth became a Union camp. By the middle of June the Mississippi was clear of Confederate armies from Cairo to Vicksburg, while the second Confederate line had lost its centre and its western end. The capture of New Orleans by the navy added another to the western successes. From the view of the war department, Halleck had planned and executed Donelson, Shiloh, and Corinth. He had certainly brought order out of Frémont's chaos. It was reasonable that he should be summoned east when the government needed an adviser. When the campaign in the Peninsula was given up, he was made general-in-chief. Pope was taken east about the same time to organize the army of Virginia for the defence of Washington.

After the fall of Corinth, the alternatives confronting Halleck's army pointed towards the immediate occupation of Vicksburg, which would complete the opening of the Mississippi, or that of Chattanooga, which would control the junction of the three railway from Memphis, Atlanta, and Rich-

mond. Neither solution was undertaken promptly ; instead, the armies were scattered to hold the places and reconstruct the railways that had fallen into Union hands. Before a man of Halleck's deliberateness could have begun anew, his promotion because of the deeds of his subordinates removed him to another sphere of action, and left the western control divided. Grant succeeded to the armies west of the middle of Tennessee, while Buell retained his command of those east of this point, his old Army of the Ohio. But the removal of Halleck and the division of the forces were not without their compensations, since they left the field commanders in command, and placed Halleck where his meddling could do less harm. Grant, entrusted with the armies of the Mississippi and the Tennessee, was somewhat more successful than Buell in the disposition of his troops.

Ulysses S. Grant, who now gained his first independent command, with no superior but the general-in-chief at Washington, had been the subject of distrustful inquiry ever since he became a colonel of Illinois volunteers, and remains to-day something of an enigma. "At the age of thirty-nine, Grant was an obscure failure in a provincial town," writes the briefest and most brilliant of his biographers. He was born in Ohio, bred as a farmer's boy, and destined for the trade of tanner, which he refused. Unable to provide him with a different trade, his father

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procured for him a political appointment to West Point, where he was graduated in 1843, somewhat below the middle of his class. In the Mexican War he was promoted for gallantry, and became a captain ten years after graduation. The next year, 1854, he threw up his commission under a cloud whose shadow has never left him. He drank too much, in a day when strong drinking was not generally a disqualification for office, and was in danger of dismissal from the service. The next seven years of his life were sad and discouraging. He drifted from place to place, having none of the business ability commonly called practical. At no time did he earn even a fair livelihood, or provide for his family more than a meagre sustenance. Slight of frame, silent to a fault, incurably simple in kind and habit, and driven from his profession by his own weakness, none could have anticipated a career for him in 1860. Lee and McClellan, of social standing and military brilliance, were marked men before the war began, Grant was distrusted, down and out. He did not overvalue himself, and when he volunteered his services, first to the adjutant-general at Washington, then to McClellan at Cincinnati, he thought of no greater responsibility than that of colonel. Ignored in his applications, he took what came to him without complaint, and entered a volunteer regiment in his adopted state.

Slowly, but inevitably, he rose. Under stress he produced a will that his native indolence disguised. Well-known, and to his own detriment, by his superiors, no promotion came to him unearned. Halleck gave him as little rope as he could. McClellan had no confidence in him. After Fort Donelson, he was relieved from command on scanty pretext which Halleck had not enough candour to admit when he restored him. After Shiloh, he was again superseded until Halleck was transferred to Washington. Yet he compelled promotion. The rumours of his past bad habits handicapped him more and more as he rose. There is no evidence that, during the war, drink at any time interfered with the performance of his duties. If it ever did, the loyalty that he inspired in all those who approached his person has led them to conspire to keep it secret. "I can't spare this man: he fights," said Lincoln when he thought of McClellan, and the Peninsula, and the days after Antietam. When the virtuous and temperate approached, urging him to dismiss such a bad example from command, he turned them off with his famous rejoinder: "I wish I knew what brand of whisky he drinks. I would send a barrel to all my other generals."

The bad reputation under which Grant suffered for another year, after the battle of Shiloh, was probably his military salvation. It steadied him, and kept from his ear the

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vicious adulation that destroyed many of his colleagues. Tied to his task, within narrow limits, he learned his trade and improved his skill before he convinced Lincoln and the nation that in his simple person was the brain for which both had steadfastly searched.

After the occupation of Corinth, the military movements west of the Mississippi, except as they were involved in the Vicksburg campaigns of 1863, ceased to be an important part of the main strategy of the war. Never had they been decisive, but all along the frontier, from Santa Fé to St. Paul, there were episodes, locally interesting and more or less connected with the war.

On the extreme border of Texas, the mining regions and the old communities along the Rio Grande necessitated a campaign in 1861 and 1862. Confederate forces actually possessed themselves of New Mexico and part of Arizona, only to be driven out by a combined attack from Colorado and California. In Colorado territory, an enthusiastic governor, Gilpin by name, believed he saw a conspiracy to take the Pike's Peak camps over to the Confederacy. With great vigour he enlisted the young prospectors of the territory into volunteer regiments, which certainly saved it from whatever danger threatened it. Farther north, the new State of Minnesota was afflicted towards the end of the year with a serious Indian uprising.

The Sioux of the Minnesota Valley, above

St. Paul, had been accumulating grievances against the United States for more than ten years before the war began. A casual frontier row in August, 1861, developed into a general attack that drove the settlers from the valley in wild distress. Nearly a thousand were slain; others were captured; and the occasion called for greater strength than Minnesota possessed. Her militia was augmented, and Pope, relieved of the Army of Virginia after the second battle of Bull Run, was sent to restore confidence on the north-west border.

In Missouri, Arkansas, and Kansas, the fighting was more orderly, but had little more permanent consequence than that on the outlying frontiers of Minnesota or New Mexico. In these three States the sentiment of the population had run high through the fifties when the fight over slavery was before Congress. When war came, many entered each army; while the least reputable of either side formed guerrilla bands that plundered and murdered at pleasure. Quantrill is the most notorious of these raiders. Price, in his attack upon Missouri, and Banks, in the Red River campaign of 1864, conducted the most notable of the formal campaigns. But none of these affected the general outcome. After one more campaign under Grant, the Mississippi became a Union river, and Confederate operations in the trans-Mississippi ceased to be important.



## CHAPTER VIII

ULYSSES S. GRANT

THE occupation of Corinth, Mississippi, which ought to have occurred immediately after Shiloh, and probably would have done if Halleck had not intervened with authority, opened up two courses for consideration. Neither Vicksburg nor Chattanooga was beyond the reach of a vigorous general, had he acted at once, taking advantage of the confusion in the Confederate ranks caused by the repulse of April and the death of Albert Sidney Johnston. But first came a cautious tactician, and then re-organization of command, while the enemy profited by the respite and fortified both places. It was twenty months before the advantage gained at Shiloh was harvested.

In the re-organization of the Confederate army, during the weeks of Union inaction, Braxton Bragg became commander in the West, where Johnston had been, and controlled the whole Confederate line from Atlanta to Vicksburg. As June and July advanced, it became clear that, if any attack upon him were to come, it would be from

Buell, whose army Halleck had started towards Chattanooga. Accordingly he set out to control that place, where Johnston had collected large amounts of army stores, and where the highways opened into the heart of the Confederacy. In August, he appeared in person on the scene, with more than half his total force, and had closed all the approaches before Buell, who had started before him, had reached his destination. Instead of seizing Chattanooga as the result of Shiloh, Buell found himself on the defensive in August. His enemy, encouraged, not only held his own in eastern Tennessee, but contemplated taking the initiative.

September and October, 1862, were months of Confederate aggression. Lee's first invasion of the North was barely checked at Antietam on September 17. Bragg led an attack on Buell in the same month, while, at the left of his line, Van Dorn created a demonstration to hold Grant in the vicinity of Corinth. The motives inspiring Bragg's attack were similar to those of Lee. Eastern Tennessee was nearly as tepid towards secession as western Virginia had been, and Kentucky was immovable thus far; yet the enthusiasts had not abandoned the hope of their aid or the illusion that only Union oppression prevented it. Bragg began his campaign in the end of August, trying to fire the lukewarm heart by a proclamation: "It is for you to decide whether our brothers

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and sisters of Tennessee and Kentucky shall remain bondmen and bondwomen to the abolition tyrant, or be restored to the freedom inherited from their fathers." His raiders, Morgan and Forrest, were already showing the Confederate uniform in fields where the northern invader was a more familiar object.

Bragg was not certain as to his ultimate goal. Nashville, to the north-west, or Louisville, further away but due north. He chose the latter, finally, since Buell was concentrating at Murfreesboro, between him and the former, and plunged across Tennessee into Kentucky. It would have been sounder strategy to take Nashville first, and use it as a base for the country further north; but Bragg's march was political as well as military, and was intended to show that the Union lines were not immune from invasion. Had Halleck refrained from weakening Buell's command, the Confederate army ought to have been caught and destroyed. As it was, Buell raced the Confederate army to Louisville, arrived there first, and on October 8, 1862, fought a battle at Perryville, Kentucky, which checked the advance of Bragg, and started him on a retreat to Chattanooga. Though he had held the invader, Buell had lost the confidence of Halleck, and was forced at the end of October to transfer his command to Rosecrans, under whom it was named the Army of the Cumberland. If Perryville had

done nothing more than give his chance to a brigadier named Sheridan, with eight raw regiments out of twelve, it would have been worth while.

Confederate aggression from Chattanooga continued during the fall of 1862. Bragg fell back on his base, re-fitted, and started for Nashville, whither he ought to have gone originally. He got as far as Murfreesboro, in front of which town Rosecrans attacked him on the last day of the year. After three days' fighting at Stone's River, as this engagement is called, Bragg was so demoralized that his general officers urged him to retreat to save the army. He fell back at once to the hills around Chattanooga, while Rosecrans occupied Murfreesboro; and both went into quarters for more than half a year.

After the departure of Halleck, Grant had remained at Corinth with a widely-scattered army, over which his command was only by inference until October. Halleck left him no plan, and apparently had no use for him, except as he held on to Corinth and was ready to reinforce Buell on demand. The administration used the time to get cotton out of the South for northern mills, and to permit a licensed trade with the enemy, advantageous to the latter, and demoralizing to the discipline as well as to the private honesty of the Union force. When Bragg started on his Kentucky raid, he left Van Dorn, with Price's army from Missouri, to

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hold Grant from sending help to Buell. In September Grant was thrown upon the defensive; directing an engagement at Iuka, on the 19th, he fought again, two weeks later, at Corinth, with the result that his position was secured from further attack. On October 25, he was placed formally in command of the department of the Tennessee, and permitted to take the initiative against Vicksburg that he desired.

For ten months after October, 1862, Grant was on trial, and knew it. His enemies, who were more fluent and more plausible than himself, had the ear of the Secretary of War and the general-in-chief. Army contractors, whose peculations he exposed, cotton brokers, whose pernicious influence upon morale he attacked, temperance advocates who thought him dissipated, co-operated to place him under suspicion and keep him there. Early in 1863, Charles A. Dana, a journalist, who later was made Assistant Secretary of War, was inflicted upon him as a member of his official family, to watch his conduct and keep the administration informed. Grant brought upon himself much of this. He was a wretched correspondent, and his military reports were brief and general. He never had a better place for his papers than his coat pocket (resembling in this the administrative technique of Lincoln, whose tall hat was a well-known receptacle for memoranda), and the quiet persistence with which

he followed up his own counsels often left the administration in doubt as to his real intent. He bore with Dana, with a modesty unusual in major-generals, and won him for a friend.

Vicksburg, Grant's first goal, would have been inconvenient in approach, even if it had not been fortified in long anticipation of attack. Set on the Mississippi, just below the Yazoo Valley and its marsh lands which protected it on the north, it was perched at the northern extremity of a long range of high bluffs. These rose directly from the water's edge, making the town almost inaccessible from the west. The guns of its forts commanded long reaches of the river, above and below, making an assault impossible. Only on the east and south-east were dry approaches available, and these were heavily entrenched. Against these Grant started in the early winter, with Memphis as his base and Holly Springs as his supply station.

It was to be a joint attack on Vicksburg, like that of the early spring on forts Henry and Donelson. Sherman was to drop down the river from Memphis, convoyed by the fleet, and try the fortifications by the water route. Grant, meanwhile, was to march overland against the rear, to drive the defending army of Pemberton back upon his entrenchments. Neither operation was a success; Grant failed to get near the city

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because of a successful raid that destroyed his stores at Holly Springs, while Sherman was turned back after a vain assault. The winter of 1862-1863 was passed in devising ways and means, in digging canals through the swamps and inventing schemes for getting round the batteries. The spring of 1863 was well advanced before Grant reached his plan of action.

With his army on the right bank of the Mississippi opposite Vicksburg, where he had placed it after the failure of his first attack, Grant came to the conviction that capture from the river side was out of the question. Only from the south or south-east was there any chance of success, but to get to Jackson, Mississippi, the natural centre for an attack from this direction, there were but two methods. He might go back to Memphis, and march south and inland from the river, with a good base at his rear, and hope for better things than in December, when the cowardice of an officer lost him Holly Springs. Such procedure was sound according to military principles, but would be a confession that the removal of the army to the right bank was a mistake. Or he might go down the river, running the batteries of Vicksburg with whatever risk it entailed, find a landing somewhere below, and march up upon the rear. Most of his advisers feared the rifled guns of Vicksburg, and a piece of comic opera engineered by

Porter, of the fleet, showed how real that danger was. One dark night the Confederate sentinels of Vicksburg saw a monitor coming down the stream and gave the alarm. No one could see that she was only a scow, with pork-barrel funnels and dummy guns. The defenders opened a furious fire that proved the vigilance of their watch, and even blew up one of their iron-clad gunboats to avoid capture. Yet in spite of the risk, Grant determined to try this course.

Sending Sherman up the river to create a diversion on the Confederate right, Grant put his army on transports,—river steamers of all sorts, manned mostly by volunteers from the ranks, — and, with the fleet as convoy, ran the batteries in April, through a bombardment that was more spectacular than dangerous. Until this moment, Pemberton, the favourite of Davis who commanded at Vicksburg, had been in the dark as to the Union intention. Now the plan was clear. Reinforcements were called for, and the Confederate left was prepared to drive the invader back into the swamps. “Joe” Johnston, with an army in eastern Mississippi tried to help. On the last day of April, Grant put his army back on the left bank of the Mississippi, at Bruinsburg, and began his march inland and to the north.

In most military operations, a base is regarded as essential, but Grant was getting further and further away from his. He



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felt the nervousness in Washington, that was likely to stop the course he had in mind, and realized that only the loyalty of his generals kept them active in a manœuvre which they doubted. They felt none of the relief that he experienced at getting on dry land, even though Vicksburg was between him and his supplies. He needed none of these. He put five days' cooked rations in his haversacks, abandoned his trunks and tents, and with his own personal baggage consisting of "a brier-wood pipe, a pouch of tobacco, and a toothbrush," on a borrowed horse, he cheerfully left what little base he had. He wired his intentions to Halleck at the last minute, and then abandoned his communications before that cautious strategist could countermand his movements. To one who asked where his headquarters would be, he is said to have replied, "Ask Pemberton." "No formalities," he later wrote, "were to retard our progress until a position was secured when the time could be spared to observe them."

For ten days after May 7, 1863, Grant was busy in places unknown to the war department. Repeated engagements met him on all sides. His five days' rations were supplemented by the forage and the bacon of the countryside. His waggon trains were recruited from the farm waggons and the family coaches of the Yazoo delta. Pemberton, in front of his left, and Johnston, to his

right, were split apart. Jackson was taken from the latter on May 14, and all hope of joining the two Confederate armies was destroyed. By May 19, Pemberton was locked up within the city of Vicksburg, while Grant completely invested its fortifications, with his right wing resting on the Mississippi above and his left wing on the Mississippi below the town. Assaults failing, the Union army settled down to formal siege. Pemberton's ability has always been doubted; his loyalty was questioned at the time of the investment, for he was northern born. Tradition gives his reply to his accusers: "When the last pound of beef, bacon, and flour; the last grain of corn; the last cow, and hog, and horse, and dog shall have been consumed, and the last man shall have perished in the trenches, then, and only then, will I sell Vicksburg."

The siege of Vicksburg was so uncomfortable to the besieged that they have remembered it with pride and satisfaction ever since. Their food gave out and disease came in. Men lived in caves and cellars to avoid Grant's bombs. Ink and vivacity remained to the city's press, but paper on which to use them disappeared. Along the lines of the opposing pickets there was much fraternizing among "Yanks" and "Johnny Rebs," with mutual exchanges of souvenirs, tobacco, and confederate notes. Individuals in the ranks showed no personal hostility

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to their opponents, as individuals. By the end of June, Pemberton was in sight of the last of his food, and offered armistice, only to meet the same reply that Buckner had got at Donelson. On July 4 the whole Confederate force of 30,000 surrendered to Grant and were placed upon parole, and the Mississippi was free from Confederate control from Cairo to the sea.<sup>1</sup> In the enthusiasm that spread over the North as the meaning of the surrender was understood, Lincoln wrote to Grant his thanks, described his former doubts, and now wished "to make the personal acknowledgment that you were right and I was wrong." Halleck, aroused from his suspicions by the accomplished fact, wrote, "You and your army have well deserved the gratitude of your country, and it will be the boast of your children that their fathers were the heroic army which re-opened the Mississippi River." "Well aware of the vanity of our foe," wrote Pemberton in his report, trying to explain his course and its disaster, "I knew that they would attach vast importance to the entrance on the 4th of July into the stronghold of the great river, and that, to gratify their national vanity, they would yield then what could not be extorted from them at any other time."

For six months in 1863, while Grant was

<sup>1</sup> The statement is usually made in this way, although a minor place, Port Hudson, held out five days longer.

fighting along the Mississippi, Rosecrans sat in eastern Tennessee, confronting Bragg, and doing nothing. Grant prodded him, and Halleck did the same, without driving him from his conviction that it was a bad business to fight two decisive battles at one time. He at least understood the importance of Vicksburg and Chattanooga, which were the keypoints to the Confederate integrity. Toward the end of June, with a skill and ease that showed it was not incompetence that held him back, Rosecrans moved his Army of the Cumberland, and speedily locked up Bragg in Chattanooga, under siege, and occupied Knoxville besides. From August 20 to September 20 he was engaged in getting the enemy out of Chattanooga.

All the other Union armies were resting during Rosecrans' campaign, which terminated in the two days' battle of Chickamauga, on September 19 and 20, 1863. President Davis realized the full significance of the attack, and sent to Bragg a division here, and another there, until at the final test Bragg could bring to the battle line 66,000 troops. They represented the whole circle of the Confederacy, coming from Richmond, Charleston, Mobile, and Vicksburg, and including among their commanders Longstreet, Polk, and Buckner.

The last of these, Buckner, was a Kentucky militiaman, who had risen rapidly to command, and had been left by his superiors to

bear the burden of the surrender of Fort Donelson. In later life, his political activities finally placed him on the same ticket with one of his Union opponents, John M. Palmer, in a presidential campaign. Longstreet had come west, at his own request, to reinforce Bragg, after fighting through all the great engagements in Virginia. The temperamental barrier between him and his commander weakened the value of his aid. Polk knew the lower Mississippi Valley perhaps better than any of his colleagues. After graduating at West Point, in 1827, he had gone into the church, and had been the first Episcopal missionary bishop of the Southwest. No pioneer roughness was too crude for him, and when episcopal translation put him at the head of the diocese of Louisiana, he continued his travel up and down the valley, that made his name and figure familiar to most of its inhabitants. Against his preferences he buckled the sword over the gown at the request of Davis, kept it there under the same request, when he thought the assignment of Albert Sidney Johnston to the western armies ought to have relieved him, and continued to his death in the service of the cause of constitutional liberty as he saw it.

By the middle of September, Bragg had received and placed his men, preparing to offer a general battle. He was on the verge of giving the order for attack, when Rose-

crans, with Thomas on his left, along the Chickamauga River, began a fight on the morning of the 19th. During the first day, Rosecrans had what advantage there was, as he had had during the whole of the manœuvre thus far. The exigencies of the battle arrangement had led both armies away from their objective, but as the battle came, Rosecrans was between Bragg and Chattanooga. On the 20th the fight was resumed, to the confusion of the Union forces. Rosecrans left the field, and hurried into Chattanooga to prepare to receive his retreating army; only the stubbornness of Thomas saved the day from total destruction. He held the road while the other divisions escaped and Bragg used up his strength in repeated but ineffective assaults. By September 22, Chattanooga was a Union city as the result of an engagement which is generally regarded as a Union defeat. Bragg was now the besieger, and settled down to starve the Army of the Cumberland out of its position. The campaign had accomplished its purpose, but its last three days had destroyed the fame of Rosecrans. When Grant accepted the command of all the armies of the West, a few days later, he took this army from its leader, and gave it to Thomas, the "rock of Chickamauga."

The survivors of the Army of the Cumberland maintain that Chickamauga was a Union victory in that it gained for Rosecrans

his objective. The country thought differently, and turned to the one consistent victor in the West. Grant had been inspecting posts in his command since Vicksburg had destroyed the last resistance of the enemy. His request for orders to take Mobile had been denied. He was sick at New Orleans when ordered to reinforce Rosecrans, and was not well when ordered by the Secretary of War to report at once at Cairo. From Cairo he was sent to Louisville, and was joined on the way by Secretary Stanton, who had come out to offer him command of a new military division of the Mississippi, with subordinate departments of the Ohio, the Cumberland, and the Tennessee, and control of nearly all the forces of the West. On October 20 Grant started for the centre of his command, having telegraphed Thomas to hold tight, and received the encouraging response, "We will hold the town till we starve." Starvation was not far away. The Union army was closely watched by Bragg, upon the near-by hills; its route to its supplies at Nashville was cut off by the enemy; its horses were dying, and its men were living on "half rations of hard bread and *beef dried on the hoof*."

On the afternoon of October 23 Grant arrived at Chattanooga, "wet, dirty, and well;" went at once to Thomas's headquarters; thrust his muddy top boots into the warmth of the grate fire; lighted a fresh

cigar; and took command of the invested army. Before he went to bed he had issued orders for the opening of a "cracker" line through which food and ammunition might come more safely; and when he rode around the lines the following morning it was evident to all that the command had changed. Before the end of the month the siege was raised. Bragg had divided his army by sending Longstreet to try to get Knoxville, and Grant had begun to consolidate his own force for the aggressive. Sherman was summoned from Vicksburg to Chattanooga.

With the arrival of Sherman and his army corps, there were brought together, for the first and only time during the war, four men whose names are, perhaps, brightest among those who fought for the Union. Grant, Sherman, Thomas, and Sheridan never lost their hold on public confidence, and the affectionate regard of the people for them continued increasingly until the war was over. Other generals had their ups and downs: these went always up. Others may have been as skilful, and were certainly as brave, but none were more successful, and, what is still more important as military reputations go, none were so consistently fortunate.

Grant had gained the control of the fighting in the West, and had given Sherman his old Army of the Tennessee, while Thomas had the Army of the Cumberland. William Tecumseh Sherman began his "Memoirs"



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with an account of his service in the Third Artillery at Charleston, under Captain Robert Anderson, in 1846. Had he begun them with his youth, he would have recorded his birth in Ohio, and his graduation at West Point in the class of 1840. A younger brother, John, who remained at home, was senator from Ohio when the Civil War began; while William had resigned from the army and become superintendent of the State military academy of Louisiana. In March, 1861, he journeyed up the railway through Jackson, Mississippi, to Columbus, Kentucky, along which he was to do so much laborious fighting the next year, and was in St. Louis, as was Grant, when Captain Lyon seized the arsenal and saved the State. He had no doubt, from the first, about the seriousness of the war, and damned the politicians. When Lincoln snubbed him at the White House, in spite of the prestige of his senatorial brother, he lost his temper. "You have got things in a hell of a fix, and you may get out of them as best you can," he said to John. After Bull Run, in which he participated as colonel commanding a brigade, he was sent west, where his rise was more rapid than that of most of the West Pointers. After Vicksburg, he was famous and knew it; but his relations to Grant, his chief, remained intimate and confidential. Grant's first thought on receiving his promotion, was that Sherman should succeed him in the Army of the Tennessee.

“The Army of the Confederacy is the South,” wrote William to John, toward the end of 1863, “and they still hope to worry us out. The moment we relax they gain strength and confidence. We must hammer away and show such resistance, such bottom that even that slender hope will fail them.” On October 27 he received his orders to march from Mississippi into eastern Tennessee; on November 14 he rode into Chattanooga.

Major-General George H. Thomas, commanding the Army of the Cumberland, graduated in Sherman's class at West Point, and was one of those Virginians who stayed by the Union. His regiment, the Second Cavalry, lost by resignation all its officers outranking him, including its commander, Albert Sidney Johnston, so that he entered the war, a colonel through seniority, at the age of forty-four. In August, 1861, he was detailed for service in Kentucky, where he worked his way up in the Army of the Cumberland until at Chickamauga his conduct was distinguished the more, because of the uncertainty of that of Rosecrans. He passed on his army corps to John M. Palmer, one of the political major-generals from Illinois, when he succeeded Rosecrans. Deliberate and slow, he was eminently a soldier. Grant believed, in later years, that Thomas could not have conducted Sherman's aggressive campaigns, but that “if it had been given him to hold the line which [Joe] Johnston tried to

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hold, neither that general, nor Sherman, nor any other officer could have done it better."

Among Thomas's subordinate commanders, none outclassed Philip H. Sheridan, an Irish-American, who as a cavalry leader had no superior in the Civil War, and for whom the war ended too soon, not giving him a chance to prove that he had no superior of any sort. Like the others of this group, he was a West Pointer, but of a later generation, graduating in 1852. Before the battle of Perryville, at which Buell checked Bragg's invasion of Kentucky, he had risen from lieutenant to captain, from captain to colonel, and to brigadier-general. After Stone's River his distinguished services made him a major-general of volunteers; while after Grant's campaign at Chattanooga he was taken east to command the cavalry division of the Army of the Potomac.

In addition to Sherman, Thomas, and Sheridan, there was another commander whose arrival at Chattanooga made a material increase to Grant's strength. Joseph Hooker, with two army corps, was shifted by rail from the army of the Potomac to the Tennessee, and arrived early in October with no waggon trains, but with an experience gained in all ranks of the army of the Potomac, from brigadier-general to general-in-command. The transfer of his corps is one of the many cases in which the northern railways formed an extra arm of the Union

service. The failure of his superiors to give him waggons and animals tied him to Nashville and deprived Rosecrans of his aid for three weeks, while Rosecrans's resulting inactivity convinced those same superiors of his incompetence.

The situation confronting Grant at Chattanooga required strategy quite as much as fighting, for Bragg was so entrenched that front attacks could be repelled at pleasure. His army lay in a long curve on the mountains east and south of Chattanooga, with his right on Missionary Ridge and his left on Lookout Mountain. Around his right ran the Chickamauga River, on which Rosecrans had fought him in September. Chattanooga Creek pierced the centre of his line and emptied into the Tennessee River a few miles below the city.

Facing Bragg, Grant lined up Sherman on his left, Thomas in his centre, and Hooker on his right. The bulk of the fighting, as he arranged it, was intended to fall on Sherman, in whose leadership he had the greatest confidence. Sherman was ordered to march secretly, to cross the Tennessee, and to fall on Bragg's right flank, at the north end of Missionary Ridge; while the rest of the army was to hold Bragg's left, so that it could not reinforce. The secret movement was a success, though delayed by the difficulty of moving heavy trains along the wretched mountain paths. To conceal Sherman's move-

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ment, Thomas, on September 23, drew up his division in the centre of the line, in readiness to storm the heights before him. It was planned that on the following day he should make an advance. Sherman, meanwhile, accomplished his crossing on the 23rd, and on the morning of the 24th, when he ought to have sprung his assault, found himself misled by his maps, and separated from the enemy by a ravine of whose existence he was unaware. The reconnoissance of Thomas, by this accident, deviated from a demonstration into a battle. Hooker, on Thomas's right, with a mixed army of 10,000 men representing the three armies of the Potomac, the Cumberland, and the Mississippi, was in front of the heights of Lookout Mountain when the fight began on the 24th. All day he worked his men through the fog, up the side of Lookout Mountain, until at night Bragg's left was so crumpled up and brushed away that Hooker could prepare to pursue his retiring regiments on the 25th.

The value of Sherman's manœuvre is still debated by tacticians. He and Grant believed that he held Bragg's right, and compelled him to strengthen it from the centre, thus weakening the Confederate ranks on Missionary Ridge, at the middle of the line. Yet the Army of the Cumberland, which faced that middle, had reasons to believe that it remained unweakened all

through the 24th. On the afternoon of the 25th, Thomas moved his army, still angry over the slights cast upon it after Chickamauga, against the entrenchments at the foot of Missionary Ridge. Above him were the heights whose inaccessibility had induced Grant to try to outflank the enemy. But once the advance was started and the first rifle-pits attained, the soldiers of the Army of the Cumberland took charge and went on up the hill. Their officers went with them, but that was all. In an hour they had dispossessed Bragg's centre, captured his guns and his forts, to say nothing of prisoners, left nearly 4,000 of their own men killed and wounded on the hillside, and ended an engagement as decisive as Vicksburg had been. Grant had brought 56,000 men into the fight, against 44,000 Confederates.

Both armies settled down for the winter shortly after Chattanooga. Bragg retreated into Georgia, where he was soon relieved by "Joe" Johnston, whose skill in delaying the advance of an army was not surpassed by any of his colleagues. He fortified himself at Dalton and waited for attack. The Army of the Cumberland lay at Chattanooga under Thomas. Knoxville was relieved by various Union forces, while Longstreet, who threatened it, went back to the defence of Richmond. Sherman resumed his minor operations by Mississippi, and wintered near Huntsville, Alabama.

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When the spring of 1864 opened, Grant rose in rank once more; for in the eighteen months since Antietam the armies in eastern Virginia had continued at their old work of attack and defence, with but little change in their relations. One commander after another had been tried and discarded before Congress, in February, 1864, revived the office of lieutenant-general, unused since the death of Washington, and in which the Senate promptly confirmed the appointment of General Grant. A few days later the new general-in-chief of all the armies came quietly into Washington, stood in line at the desk of the Willard House until the important clerk had time to read on the register his unassuming "U. S. Grant and son, Galena, Ill.," and received his commission from the hand of Lincoln. A letter from Sherman followed him east with advice that is worth recording: "Come out west; take to yourself the whole Mississippi Valley; let us make it dead sure, and I tell you the Atlantic slope and the Pacific shores will follow its destiny as sure as the limbs of a tree live or die with the main trunk! . . . Here lies the seat of the coming empire; and from the west, when our task is done, we will make short work of Charleston and Richmond, and the impoverished slope of the Atlantic."

Until the appointment of Grant, Lincoln continued to feel his responsibility as constitutional commander-in-chief, and tried to

supplement the efforts of his eastern generals. He had even called for books on the art of war, and studied them in the minutes between his political engagements. He brought to the task common sense beyond the average; but his biographers generally admit that he was not at his best as a military adviser. His disposition and attitude, however, were exactly what ought to be aimed at by the political leader charged with the conduct of a war. Repeatedly he chose generals, placed full confidence in them, saw them fail, and felt forced to intervene with his amateur strategy. During the events of 1862 he had suffered from the absence of the commander of the Army of the Potomac in the field, and had summoned Halleck,—the most successful man he could see,—to reside in Washington and explain or advise as the case might need. He did not want ever to intervene, but knew that his was the responsibility for the safety of the Union. When McClellan rode his command with too high a hand, Lincoln only said, overlooking ostentatious personal slights, “I will hold McClellan’s horse, if he will only bring us success.” When he learned that Hooker had foolishly said that the country needed a dictator, he contented himself with replying: “Only those generals who gain successes can set up dictators. What I now ask of you is military success, and I will risk the dictatorship.” When Grant pre-



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pared his orders for his first general campaign in 1864, the President wrote him, "The particulars of your plan I neither know, nor seek to know." For once no complaint came from headquarters. Grant replied, "Should my success be less than I desire and expect, the least I can say is, the fault is not with you."

## CHAPTER IX

### GETTYSBURG AND RECONSTRUCTION

THE three successors of McClellan made slight progress with the attack upon Richmond between the battle of Antietam and the arrival of Grant in Washington. Burnside, Hooker, and Meade fought three of the bloodiest battles of the war; at Fredericksburg the Union loss was nearly 11,000; at Chancellorsville it was over 11,000; at Gettysburg it was 17,684. The Confederate loss to offset these in the three engagements was 38,000. When they were all over the Union armies lay entrenched near the Potomac, while Lee continued to block the road to Richmond.

At most times throughout the war General Robert E. Lee was held by President Davis to that defensive fighting that he thought most wise. The invasion of Maryland had been, in many ways, only a piece of aggressive defence, in order to compel the Union leaders to let up on Richmond. After the battle of Antietam, Lee fell back into Virginia, and waited through the autumn of 1862, to see what McClellan would do next. When Mc-

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Clellan was replaced by Ambrose E. Burnside, on November 7, Lee had to take up anew his series of studies of the personality and tactics of Union commanders. Longstreet is responsible for the assertion that Lee regretted to part with McClellan, "for we always understood each other so well. I fear they may continue to make these changes till they find some one whom I don't understand." Greater confidence permeated the Confederate ranks after the successes of the year, and large numbers of absentees came back into the army. When they saw that McClellan's removal was due to his unwillingness to fight, they knew that his successor would try to fight before winter set in.

The strategy of Burnside's campaign was simple and almost predetermined. Of the three ways of getting to Richmond, McClellan had tried two. In the spring he had gone to the Peninsula; while in the fall he was at work on the route along the foothills of the Blue Ridge,—the Piedmont,—when dismissed. Neither of his plans could be taken up again without somewhat discrediting the authorities who removed him. Accordingly, Burnside proceeded on the middle route, moving at once on Fredericksburg, and hoping to skirt Lee's right flank and get between him and Richmond. The Richmond and Potomac railway was relied on as a carrier of Union supplies. On November 17, the advance of the Union army reached the

Rappahannock River, opposite Fredericksburg, and could, and would have occupied the town at once, had not Burnside held back for a pontoon train and a heavier force. It was Lee's first desire to let Burnside cross the Rappahannock and get further into the Wilderness, and then destroy him in a pitched battle; but Davis intervened. In October, Gladstone had struck a note of British sympathy for the Confederacy, which made the Richmond leaders hope that a recognition by Great Britain might follow and make the danger of a great battle unnecessary. Before Burnside got his army ready to cross the river, Lee was waiting for him along the top of the heights behind the city, with a line more than six miles long, Longstreet on the left and "Stonewall" Jackson on the right.

On December 13, 1862, Burnside began his attack. Lee had allowed him to build his bridges and cross the Rappahannock without serious interference. Entrenched along the ridges, he was content to wait and fight under cover, since his weaker force of 72,000 was to oppose 106,000 Union effectives. Nowhere along the line was the attack of December 13 successful. Toward the close of the day, as a last chance, Burnside sent column after column up the hill, along the Orange Plank Road, against a stone wall at the foot of a rising known as Marye's Hill. One army corps lost more

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than a quarter of its men in the vain assault. Hooker's division, at the last, kept up the fight long after its failure was plain to everyone but Burnside. On December 14, the army lay, winded, around Fredericksburg. The next day it crossed the Rappahannock again and returned to quarters. The snap was gone from the Army of the Potomac; and when "Fighting Joe" Hooker took the reins from Burnside his rolls showed that 84,000 men who ought to have been present had quietly melted from the ranks. Neither this army nor Lee's was made up of professional soldiers yet. The morale of either broke down in the face of defeat. Even the victorious Confederate army dwindled in numbers, and Lee had to make repeated demands for reinforcements. Wiser than many of the other Confederate leaders, he saw the logical outcome, unless some accident should intervene. "We should not," he wrote in the spring of 1883, "conceal from ourselves that our resources in men are constantly diminishing, and the disproportion in this respect between us and our enemies. . . is constantly augmenting."

The Army of the Potomac wintered after Fredericksburg in its old quarters around Falmouth, on the narrowest neck of land between the Rappahannock and the Potomac, about fifty miles from Washington. Under Hooker, the spirits of the men revived more than those of its officers, for the latter, though

knowing him as a brave fighter, distrusted his judgment and his personal character. By April, 1863, when the President came down to camp to review the troops, in a heavy snowstorm, there were 130,000 effectives present, organized in seven army corps. On April 12, Hooker began to shoe his horses and clean up his hospitals. In a few days more he was marching up the Rappahannock to a crossing above Fredericksburg, near Chancellorsville, where on the last day of the month he established his headquarters at the Chancellor House. Part of his force he had thrown across the river below Fredericksburg, so that Lee lay between his divided left and right wings. The Confederates were in their old entrenchments of December, and began to readjust their lines only on the morning of May 1. There were perhaps 60,000 of them. Longstreet had been detached from the army for service elsewhere, leaving Jackson and Lee to direct the fighting. By the night of the 1st, these had established a new line, touching the Union outposts, and here the soldiers bivouacked where they happened to be. Lee and Jackson slept together on a heap of pine boughs. The next morning the latter set off with his army for a destination unannounced, which proved, in the afternoon, to be Hooker's right flank, which he reached by an inconspicuous farm road. In the early evening his men plunged upon the surprised

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wing, with the "rebel yell." The victory which they gained cost a high price, for Jackson rode into his own line of fire and was torn to pieces by Confederate bullets.

Many of Hooker's generals believed that the battle could have been saved on May 3. The division of the Union army for attack had given Lee a great advantage; but he had divided his own force for defence, and Hooker had abundant fresh troops on the 3rd, who might have destroyed Jackson's flanking party on his right. He abandoned his right, however, and tried to take the heights of Fredericksburg, on his left, although they had proved impregnable in Burnside's fight. An assault on them was finally successful, but before the wing which took them was in full possession, Hooker had been stunned by a cannon ball and had left the field. His orders that the army be withdrawn terminated the aggressive campaign. A good opportunity had been lost by mismanagement, and the superior generalship of Lee.

The government was in a quandary when the news of Lee's victory reached Washington. It was obvious that Hooker could not be allowed to blunder away another battle; yet it was hard to agree on any one to take his place. Nearly every general of the Army of the Potomac who had distinguished himself had been tried in chief command. The embarrassment was increased by the know-

ledge that many of Hooker's subordinates, including Couch, who had taken charge on the 3rd, would resign if he were not removed. Before a decision could be reached Lee added to the perplexity by breaking camp, and Hooker surmised that he was heading for the Potomac. The surmise was correct, for Lee had slipped once more into the Shenandoah Valley, with an invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania in his mind.

Hooker suggested that he ought to "pitch into his rear," at Fredericksburg, again. But Lincoln, cautious after two experiences with the hills of Fredericksburg, advised him to stay north of the Rappahannock, saying, "I would not take any risk of being entangled upon the river, like an ox jumped half over a fence, and liable to be torn by dogs, front and rear, without a fair chance to gore one way or kick the other."

General George G. Meade, commanding the fifth corps of Hooker's army, was asleep in his tent near Frederick, Maryland, when he was aroused by the chief of staff of the Secretary of War, and, instead of being taken to Washington, under arrest, as he had sleepily anticipated, was led, protesting, to Hooker's tent, under peremptory orders to assume command of the Army of the Potomac. Caution, quick temper, and irritability are the qualities in Meade which made the greatest impression on his associates. He did not belong to the "gallant soldier" class, was



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not a politician, and had no capacity to humour the whims of the public. He was, however, a brilliant engineer and an unusual tactician, who stood better with his superiors than with his subordinates. Unlike most of the generals he came of an old and well-known family, and had a standing on the floor of the Philadelphia "Assembly Balls" as secure as in the camp. It was on June 28, with an army sprinkled over two States, that he took command.

There was great risk in changing leaders on the eve of a general engagement. Meade had not been in the confidence of Hooker, whom he had preceded by two years at West Point, and had no accurate knowledge of the location of the various corps that had moved north on the inner circle, as Lee moved on the outer. Hooker had been following Lee; and on June 28, Meade, after taking account of stock, ordered the armies to continue their march to the Susquehanna and to keep Washington, Baltimore, and Philadelphia well covered.

There was commotion in the eastern cities of the North. New York and Philadelphia called for McClellan once more, while their governors enlarged the home guard and took measures for defence that were novel north of the Potomac. "Business stopped," says Rhodes, and it was said "that bankers and merchants were making preparations to remove specie and other valuables" from

Philadelphia. But with all the alarm, stocks stayed where they were, and there was no financial panic. Even the shares of the Pennsylvania Railroad, whose line was likely to be torn to pieces by one army or the other, fell less than two points in the open market.

On June 28, 1863, Longstreet was already in Pennsylvania, near Chambersburg, while the southern army, stretched behind him, was beginning to consider concentration. Lee had no notion of staying in the North,—if he broke up the attacks on Richmond he would do enough. But by June 29, he had got so far that he must either fight a battle or fall back. He did not fear the outcome, for his army had grown steadily since Chancellorsville, and was now a trained and tempered machine, full of confidence acquired in two great victories. The numbers were not far apart. Meade had 88,000 men ; Lee, 76,000.

Meade suspected that Lee had reached his farthest north, and seized a convenient cross-roads, where he might easily intercept the return, by whatever route. Gettysburg, in southern Pennsylvania, is the meeting-place of several important roads leading from York, Harrisburg, Carlisle, and Chambersburg, on the north, and back to Maryland, on the south. Lee was north of the town when Meade's advance pushed into and through it, on July 1. A little further on, the Union men met the head of the enemy, marching south,

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and were driven back upon the rear of their column, after a long day's fight. The death of Reynolds, their commander, early in the day, might have accounted for greater demoralization than occurred. Meade had a substitute ready at once, and Hancock was on the field by the middle of the afternoon, to straighten out the regiments in the cemetery south of Gettysburg. That night both Lee and Meade realized that the battle was before them, and prepared for it. The former was somewhat weakened in his judgment because of the contempt he had begun to acquire for the Army of the Potomac. As the ground lay, he was forced to take the offensive.

During the forenoon of July 2, Lee's skirmishers explored the long Union line, as it lay on the ridge of Cemetery Hill. They found it to be in the form of an inverted capital U, with the bend pointing north. It followed the natural contour of the field, being nearly everywhere on a hillside. At the extreme right, on the east, Culp's Hill formed a natural termination of the line; another hill, Round Top, performed a similar function on the left. It was about two miles from the cemetery to the end of the left; the right extremity was three-quarters of a mile nearer; while it was possible to communicate with all portions of the line from the rear, which lay in the centre of the U. The only portion which was not well pro-

tected, was toward the left, where Sickles had advanced beyond his station and rested in the open fields. This, Longstreet attacked, pushing Sickles back to where he ought to have been, but no further. Everywhere along the front the attack became general as the day wore on, and at the right, Culp's Hill was seized and held overnight.

On the morning of July 3, Lee thought to end a battle and record a victory. Instead, he found Culp's Hill taken from him, and learned that Longstreet's supposed victory over Sickles had only rectified, not weakened, Meade's position. The Union commander, less than a week in office, was waiting calmly for the next attack. A young Wisconsin officer has described his appearance: "There was no arrogance of hope, or timidity of fear discernible in his face; but you would have supposed that he would do his duty conscientiously and well, and would be willing to abide the result." The same officer heard Meade talk with Hancock and others during the morning, and learned that he was pleased with the left, and satisfied with the right, and "was not of the opinion that the enemy would attack the centre, our artillery had such sweep there."

The forenoon of the third day of Gettysburg passed with nothing more than skirmishing along the front. The general position of Lee was well known, but his intentions had been revealed to his own generals only

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after the re-occupation of Culp's Hill. He lay concealed in the timber of a row of hills generally concentric to, and outside of, Cemetery Hill, and known as Seminary Ridge. Between the two lines, along the Union left, was nearly a mile of fields and orchards, with the Emmitsburg Road running down the middle. He had failed to make a gain at either flank, and now proposed to use fresh troops against the thinnest part of Meade's line, where Meade did not expect him. The light camp lunch was consumed, the cigars had been smoked, and the generals who had eaten with Meade had started back to their posts when Lee commenced a terrific bombardment of Meade's position. After more than an hour of this, the fire slackened and rumour ran through the Union ranks that the enemy was advancing. Out of the woods, in front half a mile long, column after column moved slowly into position, as if on parade. Eighteen thousand men, chiefly Pickett's division, marched across the open fields against the centre of the Union line. The shrapnel and canister rained upon them, but only made the files close up to fill their gaps. Without haste, and without a quiver, the finest charge of the Civil War was made. In cold-blooded, deliberate courage it surpassed the assault of Missionary Ridge. The front of the column crossed the whole interval between the armies, and fought, hand to hand, with the regiments of the

wavering Union line. But the line held, miscellaneous regiments were led by strange officers to the rescue, and in a few minutes those of Pickett's column who remained alive began their retreat. The three days' fighting had cost Lee 22,000 men ; it cost the victor nearly 18,000.<sup>1</sup>

Like the battle of Antietam, Gettysburg was followed by a period of inaction. Lee slowly withdrew, and Meade slowly followed him, never gaining the credit which military critics believe he might have had of destroying his adversary. Both armies crossed the Potomac, Meade keeping to the Piedmont, east of the Shenandoah Valley, where McClellan had been in the fall of 1862. When winter came, their positions were not far different from what they had been a year before.

The victory of Gettysburg preceded the fall of Vicksburg by one day. On July 5, the whole United States knew that the Mississippi was opened, and that the irresistible Lee had been defeated. Neither triumph had had its equal in the war, and the combination led the sanguine to hope that the end was near. In any foreign war either would probably have been decisive ; but this was not a war to be won by points. The determination of the Union to maintain itself was equalled by the determination

<sup>1</sup> Here, as elsewhere, the figures include the dead and wounded, but not the captured.

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of the Confederacy to secure its independence. Until the last army in the field was gone, until the last dollar had been borrowed and spent, and the last old man lined up beside the last small boy in the Confederate ranks, the war was not to end. If Davis and his advisers had the intellectual acumen, or honesty, to see the end, and failed to ask for terms at this time, the moral responsibility that they assumed was great. Their people, generally misled by their own press, had little notion of the catastrophe.

Gettysburg was a severe defeat, but Lee was not overwhelmed by it. He retired in good order, showing such strength that Meade would not provoke him to another test. He resumed his guard of Richmond, and all through the next year kept it so vigilantly that the greatest of Union leaders, with unlimited resources, could not break it down.

Vicksburg, on the other hand, was a victory that cleared the ground. It ended the struggle for the Mississippi, and restricted the working area of the Confederacy to the seaboard and the lower South. In no way do the relative results of the fighting appear more clear than in connection with the civil measures resorted to by Lincoln in the West and in the East. By the end of 1863, large portions of Tennessee, Arkansas, and Louisiana were actually within the Union lines, and contained no trace of organized resistance. In the East, the lines were where

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they had been in 1861, except for the mountain region of Virginia.

A counter revolution in Virginia, in 1861, partially undid the work of secession. In the convention which determined to secede, the vote was eighty-eight to fifty-five, the minority representing the western counties, where the number of slaves, always small, had actually diminished since 1850. Inter-course between the sections had been slight. From the West came always a few members of the legislature, and a few inmates of the penitentiary, it is said, but there was little else. Among these mountain Virginians, the ordinance of secession was repudiated at once, and an irregular State government was erected at Wheeling, that declared all the existing State offices vacated by the act of treason, chose new officers, and called upon Lincoln to recognize it as the actual government of Virginia. Francis H. Pierpont was chosen governor on June 20, 1861.

It was the belief of Lincoln that no State could get out of the Union. The seceding governments he described as illegal conspiracies; and he was quite willing to recognize as the legal government this provisional administration erected by the loyal citizens of the State. Congress agreed with him, admitting senators and representatives elected to take the places of those Virginians who had resigned. One of the senators from Tennessee, Andrew Johnson, a Union Democrat,



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led in the advocacy of the right of these men to their seats.

After they had been recognized by Congress as the State of Virginia, the western Virginians soon presented a popular memorial, approved by their legislature, asking for the division of the State and the creation of a new State in the West. "No new State shall be formed . . . within the Jurisdiction of any other State . . . without the consent" of the legislature of the State concerned, says the Constitution. This consent was here obtained without difficulty, since the eastern population, which would have opposed it, had refused to co-operate with the loyal government, and had thus thrown away its voice. On the last day of 1862, Lincoln signed a bill admitting West Virginia into the Union.

The debates over West Virginia gave rise to constitutional discussion of the nature of secession, that gained greater interest as the war went on. To the casual observer, the State of Virginia in the Confederacy appeared to have all of the attributes of the old State in the Union, to be that State in fact, as it claimed to be. If this were true, the Pierpont government was without legal basis, and could not give constitutional assent to the partition of the State. But, in this case, it would have also to be admitted that Virginia, constitutionally or not, had in fact got out of the Union and maintained

an existence outside of the Constitution. Any act of the United States that admitted that the Confederate State of Virginia was Virginia, must be an admission that secession was a fact.

Lincoln denied the logical and physical possibility of secession. Maintaining the indestructibility of the Union, he was forced to hold that Virginia was still in the Union, though prevented from performing her duties by an illegal conspiracy of her citizens. This conspiracy, which obstructed the laws, was to be broken down by the President, under his constitutional obligation to enforce the law. He was ready to use his discretion in recognizing as Virginia any loyal government that appeared to have no opposition among loyal citizens. This was highly expedient, and he believed it to be entirely constitutional. His cabinet was evenly divided on the question, however; and in Congress there was wide range of opinion. Some admitted that secession had broken the Union; others, like Sumner, held secession to have constituted an act of suicide, ending the existence of the State, and reducing it to the condition of other unorganized territory of the United States. Thaddeus Stevens, of Pennsylvania, went even further, held that secession was annihilation, that the status during the war was of no consequence, that if the South should be won back by force it must be considered as a conquered province,

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subject in all things to the will of the conqueror. In this confusion, Lincoln held tight to his guiding doctrine of the permanence of the Union, recognized the Pierpont government as legal, and signed the West Virginia bill.

The Pierpont government became a quaint curiosity after the admission of West Virginia, in which alone it had any supporters. The Virginia which it claimed, in its reduced degree, to represent was in Lee's possession, and was content to be there. For a time, Pierpont and his State officials remained on what fragment of Virginia soil they could find within Union lines; but ultimately the government was disregarded and abandoned, as representing no political fact. The only portion of the Confederacy, east of the Appalachians, won and held by Lincoln at the end of 1863 was the mountain country now admitted as the State of West Virginia.

The progress of the war in the West raised problems similar to those in Virginia, on a larger scale. As soon as the Union armies had gained a foothold in Tennessee, after the surrender of Fort Donelson and the occupation of Nashville, Lincoln appointed a war governor to administer the civil interests of those Tennessee citizens within the Union lines. East Tennessee, with Knoxville as its metropolis, was as loyal as West Virginia, and might have acted similarly had it been nearer to the Ohio River. On March

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5, 1862, the Senate confirmed the appointment of Andrew Johnson, as military governor,—an office that had no previous existence, no precedents, and no legal limits for its guidance. Johnson, its incumbent, was better qualified to hold it by his aggressive loyalty than by his temper or discretion.

The personality of Andrew Johnson, which became of critical importance in 1865, was shown in 1861, when he refused to be bound by the secession of Tennessee, and retained his seat in the United States Senate. Clamour at home, threats, and epithets failed to move him. "I intend to stand by that flag," was his resolute utterance. Stubborn, honest loyalty was the keynote of his character. In thirty-five years of public life before the war, he had proved in his person that America was the land of opportunity. Born in poverty and ignorance, which his widowed mother could not lighten, he was one of the humble class of "poor whites" so common in the South. He began life as a tailor in Tennessee. His wife taught him to write, and experience taught him the deep gulf between the southern aristocrat and the commoner. Before he was thirty he had been mayor of his village and member of the legislature. He served five terms in Congress before he became governor of Tennessee, in 1853; and after two administrations at the head of his commonwealth he became its senator. His career is one of

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the evidences that the power of the plantation class was waning even before secession. His prominence, loyalty, courage, and popularity among Tennessee Unionists justified his appointment to a difficult and undefined office.

The functions of the military governor of Tennessee were to silence treason, restrain the press, maintain the peace, administer justice, and feed the destitute. All these Johnson did with an ability that made him a conspicuous figure through the United States. He was to keep things going, in accordance with Lincoln's theory that Tennessee remained a State, with all the rights that it was practicable to accord her. Late in 1862, by order of the President, he tried to hold an election for congressmen, but found that conditions were too much disturbed for it. Indeed, for six months more, eastern Tennessee was in confusion. In July, 1863, there were forty counties represented in a Union convention at Nashville, and Lincoln began to hope for a new convention to undo the work of secession. In September, he wrote to Johnson: "All Tennessee is now clear of armed insurrectionists. You need not to be reminded that it is the nick of time for re-inaugurating a loyal State government." Chickamauga and Chattanooga had both to be fought before actual conditions justified the President's statement; but by December, Tennessee was

free and ready for reconstruction. "Tennessee is not out of the Union, never has been, and never will be out," thundered the governor as he encouraged his loyal followers. "Treason must be made odious, traitors must be punished and impoverished," he declared on another occasion. Personally rancorous toward the members of that aristocracy from which he was excluded, Johnson's spirit was far different from that of Lincoln.

While Johnson was following up the victorious Union army as it occupied Tennessee, another war governor was established in Louisiana, with headquarters at New Orleans. The occupation of New Orleans in the spring of 1862, brought with it problems of government in Louisiana that could not be evaded. Loyal citizens were fewer than in Tennessee, but people and city could not be left outside the law. George F. Shepley, who was appointed governor in August, 1862, had been military mayor of New Orleans, by order of General Butler. Courts were soon established, and early in 1863, an election of congressmen was held in two districts,—the only two within the Union lines. A military governor for Arkansas, John S. Phelps, was appointed a few weeks after Shepley; but until after Vicksburg, and the taking of Little Rock in September, 1863, the Union forces had too little foothold in that State to do effective work.

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Congress was changing its views regarding slavery in 1862; but it continued to give its countenance to Lincoln's steps in reorganizing the Confederate States as rapidly as they were occupied. It had admitted senators and representatives from Virginia, for the term expiring March 4, 1863. It now admitted the two representatives chosen in Louisiana, seating them for the remainder of the same session. Tennessee was prevented by the Confederate raiders from taking part in these early elections, although in fact she was more completely Unionized than either Louisiana or Virginia. This compliance of Congress, and the military successes at Gettysburg and Vicksburg, led the President to take another step toward reconstruction.

By December, 1863, at least three States were ripe for reorganization, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee. In these the President had fulfilled his constitutional obligation to see that the laws be faithfully executed, and had restored a fair degree of peace. He believed that his was the right to determine the end of resistance, as he had the beginning, as well as to pardon offenders against the laws. On December 8, 1863, he issued a proclamation which was the result of his interpretation of these powers. All persons who had been implicated in the insurrection, with certain exceptions, were authorized to take an oath of allegiance to the United States, and receive

full pardon. The excepted classes embraced those holding important civil, military, or diplomatic offices in "the so-called Confederate government," those who had resigned similar offices in the United States to aid the Confederacy, and those who had maltreated prisoners of war. The rank and file, whom Lincoln believed to have been deceived by their leaders, were to have only a formal obstacle placed against their return. When in any State a number, equal to one-tenth of the vote cast for President in 1860, had taken the oath, a government was to be established by the loyal citizens, which Lincoln pledged himself to recognize as legal. He could not guarantee that its senators and representatives would get into Congress, since each house is the exclusive judge of the admission of its members, but so far as the Executive could determine the fact, the restoration would be complete.

The reception of this proclamation by Congress was such as to encourage the President. "It is rare," wrote his secretaries, Nicolay and Hay, "that so important a State paper has been received with such unanimous tokens of enthusiastic adhesion." The last Congress had admitted representatives from the restored States, and, said the secretaries, the new Congress raised no voice of discord. "Men acted as though the millennium had come. Chandler was delighted, Sumner was joyous, apparently



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forgetting for the moment his doctrine of State suicide; while at the other political pole Dixon and Reverdy Johnson said the message was highly satisfactory. . . . The conservatives and radicals vied with each other in claiming that the message represented their own views of the crisis. . . . For a moment the most prejudiced Democrats found little to say against the message; they called it 'very ingenious and cunning, admirably calculated to deceive.' "

The progress of the war had made it possible for Lincoln to begin the reconstruction of three of the States of the Mississippi Valley, upon which Vicksburg had set its seal. Gettysburg had released nothing; West Virginia had dropped away from the Confederacy of its own weight. The defensive strategy of Lee had held the Confederate line through both battles of Bull Run, the Peninsula campaign, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and even Gettysburg. Meade was no nearer to Richmond than McClellan had been.

The crisis of the war, however, was passed; and no days in the future were to be so dark as those that had gone. Men who had it in them to become Unionists had become so. For these, Lincoln took advantage of events to phrase a paragraph that summed up all the aspirations of the nation. On September 19, he attended the dedication of a cemetery at Gettysburg, and listened to the ripe

oration of Edward Everett. When the latter finished his peroration, "the echoes of which were lost in the long and hearty plaudits of the great multitude," the President of the United States spoke a few sentences that embraced the whole history of the Union, and constitute the most distinctive American utterance of the nineteenth century :

"Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting-place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here ; but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining

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before us—that from these honoured dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

## CHAPTER X

### THE BALANCE OF POWER

A CAUSTIC pen, in the hand of Owen Wister, in his little life of Grant, has described the change of feeling that was hastened in England when the news of Gettysburg and Vicksburg was heard. "The *London Times* and *Saturday Review*," he says, "had lately been quoting the Bible as sanction for slavery; for England dearly loves the Bible; but now many voices in London became sure that slavery was wicked; for England dearly loves success." The crisis in foreign relations was passed as soon as the outcome of the war was clear. Recognition is to be justified only by the success of the people fighting for their independence; it is out of question in a struggle doomed to failure. But any account of English opinion which relates only the motives of expediency that inspired the British cabinet falls far short of the fact, and ignores a disinterested, unselfish popular movement that has few parallels in history. The balance of power between the Union and the South was, indeed, carefully watched; but after 1862 the English middle-class

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became convinced that one of the two sides was right.

The fullest and most judicious account of the trend of English opinion, after the escape of the *Alabama* in 1862, is to be found in the pages of Mr. James Ford Rhodes, who shows that direct sympathy with the South was confined largely to members of one aristocracy feeling for those of another. Sympathy was reinforced by dislike of the United States, on its own account,—a consciousness of its stubbornness that was inconveniencing the rest of the world, and that could be summed up in the words: "The war can only end in one way. Why not accept the facts and let the South begone?" The English Radicals, who were with the United States at all times, were in opposition to Lord Palmerston's government, and made him less willing to see good in the northern cause. After the second Bull Run, Russell and Palmerston agreed that the time had nearly come to offer mediation; but Antietam postponed the day, while the emancipation proclamation started a new and positive current of feeling among the middle and lower classes.

The London *Times* denounced the emancipation proclamation as an attempt to incite a servile war; but anti-slavery sentiment accepted it as something different, greeting "the dawn of the new year [1863] as the beginning of an epoch of universal freedom

upon the Western continent, and of close friendship between the people of England and America." Workmen began to appreciate its significance. Labourers of Manchester and Sheffield, some of them idle and hungry from the closing down of the cotton mills, resolved against the "wicked object" of the Confederacy. John Bright, always a Liberal, summed it up in a speech to the London trades unions: "Impartial history will tell that, when your statesmen were hostile or coldly indifferent, when many of your rich men were corrupt, when your press—which ought to have instructed and defended—was mainly written to betray, the fate of a continent and its vast population being in peril, you clung to freedom with an unfaltering trust that God in His infinite mercy will make it the heritage of all His children."

The American Minister in London recognized that the current of opinion had set in favour of the Union, early in 1863; but it remained to be seen whether it would be stronger than official distrust. In the spring, Parliament debated the American situation, using the *Alabama* correspondence as a text. Friends of America attacked the government from the opposition benches, bringing out explanations from the Prime Minister and the Solicitor-General. Palmerston sneered at the claims of the United States, denounced them as a means of

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creating political capital, and assured Parliament that England had enforced her neutral obligations. As Adams wrote in his diary, he indulged, "as usual, in derogatory and insulting language rather than in conciliation."

Friends of the North, says Mr. Rhodes, believed that this debate presaged war, and the Confederate envoys, unrecognized though they were, took comfort. Since the departure of the *Alabama* the vessels for their navy had been hurried on. One of them, the *Alexandria*, was seized by Russell in April; but two others, iron-clad rams, continued under construction in the yard of the Lairds. When Adams called these to the attention of the Foreign Office, Lord Russell found that while, by common knowledge, they were for the Confederacy, the contracts showed them to belong to a French firm, and to be building for the service of a peaceful country. Yet Adams continued to bring in testimony as to their real intent. On September 1, 1863, the Foreign Secretary wrote him that there was no evidence on which his government could interfere. Four days later, the American Minister, fearing the worst, and mindful of the debates of March, wrote his final note of protest, in which he used words that have become historic: "It would be superfluous in me to point out to your lordship that this is war."

It was a fortunate accident that Adams's

letter of the 5th crossed in the mails a further note from the Foreign Office stating that the rams had been seized. Lord Russell was trying to do both the friendly and the legal thing, and had reached, finally, the conclusion that it was better to err on the side of caution, if at all. After this episode, there was no more fear of recognition of the Confederacy by either England or France. Up till July, Napoleon III. had been trying to prod the English cabinet to a mediation or a recognition; but the news of Gettysburg and Vicksburg changed the aspect of events, and removed the positive dangers of European interference. The growth of middle-class sympathy worked for the creation of a positive friendship.

The distribution of strength between the Union and the South, which showed its proportions in the critical year, 1863, was based on population, wealth, and improved opportunity. The long contest between Washington and Richmond shows clearly that the North did not win because of superior valour or higher generalship. With ragged troops, for whom a victory often spelt rations and shoes, as well as glory, and whose numbers were shrinking, Lee was resisting army after army. The numbers of his adversary had much to do with the result; his wealth had more to do with it. The key to the understanding of the war is to be found in the material resources of the contestants.



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In the eleven States which entered the Confederacy, excluding West Virginia, there were, in 1860, 1,200,000 men who came within the military ages of seventeen and fifty before 1865. Nearly all of these volunteered, or were drafted into the army. It is a matter of pride throughout the South that there were few stay-at-homes. The materials do not exist for an accurate statement of the aggregate of enlistments, for the Confederacy was too hardly pressed to put much stress on formal records, and many of those that once existed have been destroyed. But the closest student of numbers and losses, Colonel Thomas L. Livermore, has estimated that the total of enlistments, for various terms, was quite as large as the total military population; while the period of service was equivalent to that of about 1,000,000 men, serving each three years. In the Union armies, it is known that over 2,800,000 men enlisted, equivalent, on the three-year basis, to 1,500,000. The Confederacy gave a larger proportion of its men to the ranks than did the North, yet it was outnumbered in the ratio of three to two.

The enthusiasm with which the South sent this million to the front is commonly overstated. After a year of war, voluntary enlistment fell away, in both sections. It was stimulated in the North for another year by cash bounties, which the South could not afford to duplicate. In April, 1862, the

Confederacy was forced to fall back upon conscription; and during the next three years it developed an elaborate machine for drafting into the armies every available man between the ages of seventeen and fifty. The willingness of individuals to fight is no test of the popularity of any war.

With its men in the firing-line, industry in the South would have stopped, had not its women taken the reins and its slaves stayed loyal. That class, which northern abolitionists regarded as downtrodden and oppressed, continued at work with a devotion and fidelity that are the best answers to those who deny it virtue or capacity. Cotton and tobacco continued to be planted and harvested. Food was always to be had. In Richmond, men with money could live well. But as the Union blockade tightened its grip on southern ports, and kept both the cotton in and the luxuries out, southern life was reduced to the lowest terms of mere necessities. It was made clear how completely the old South had depended on the outside world, in its devotion to its staple products. Clothing grew simpler and plainer until it became threadbare. The family silver remained, to decorate pork, corn-pone, and potatoes. The sick suffered for the lack of delicacies; and medicines were to be had only when a successful blockade runner evaded the watchful Union gunboats. Even then, what medicines escaped impressment

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for the armies were too costly for general use. When the war was over, the southern States were worn out and demoralized. Whatever broke down remained unrepaired for the lack of labour and materials. The railways, worn under heavy traffic, could not be renewed. Machinery stood idle for the lack of single parts. Even had the men remained at home, the blockade would ultimately have reduced the South.

The cost of slave labour and the exploitation of restricted crops was paid when the South needed all its strength, and found it limited. Never had the old South possessed the capital for industrial development. Its railways were built on money borrowed north or abroad. Every planter who was successful found himself obliged to keep reinvesting his profits in land and slaves, and had no surplus for general investment. In its incapacity either to borrow from its citizens, or to tax them, the Confederacy proved the weakness of the plantation system.

War, after all is said, is chiefly a matter of finance. Upon the shoulders of C. G. Memminger, Confederate Secretary of the Treasury, fell the burden of finding, somewhere, the means for maintaining the army in fighting trim. The first miscalculation was fundamental: cotton had been relied on as capital, but when the blockade became effective, and Europe failed to intervene to break it, this resource collapsed, for the South could neither

eat nor manufacture its staple product. There are only two means of raising money known to governments; these are loans and taxes. In the long run, taxes are the sole reliance, for nations, like persons, cannot continue permanently to consume more than they produce; for short periods, however, the public debt may supplement the tax.

Heavy taxation was urged by Memminger, early in 1861, as needed both for revenue and to solidify the government. He was blocked by the fact that one of the chief subordinate motives of secession was the only method of taxation which the United States had found effective. Rarely had the United States raised funds by direct taxation; it had instead relied upon the easily collected tariffs, levied upon goods imported. Against a tariff for Protection the South had long contended; it did not know how to levy one purely for revenue; and, had it known how, any tariff would have been reduced in value because the blockade was effective in excluding from Confederate ports those imports on which it could be collected. The tariff bill that was finally passed imitated the last Democratic tariffs of the United States, and produced during the Civil War about \$1,000,000 in specie. The Union armies often consumed thrice as much in a single day.

Internal taxes, alone, were left, and these were reduced in their effectiveness by both

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the legal system of the Confederacy, and its economic condition. Dreading heavy taxation, says Schwab, the able historian of Confederate finance, the Congress started, in 1861, with a direct tax of one-half of one per cent. on all the property in the Confederacy. If all of this had been collected in coin, it would have produced \$21,000,000; but some of it was never paid, and most of it was avoided by the people. Tender of State susceptibilities, Congress had allowed the States to pay their quotas directly, and then reimburse themselves by taxing their citizens. Most of them borrowed the money to pay their quotas, thus avoiding the taxation. Only a willingness to pay the cost can justify a revolution, or the ability to pay make it succeed. Here the Confederacy imposed upon posterity as much of the cost of the war as it could. But, even if it had been disposed to submit to heavy direct taxes, the South had little ready money with which to pay, and after the loss of its cotton market could not hope to raise large sums. Taxation soon broke down, and the government accepted payments in kind, in cotton bales, or agricultural produce. It fed as much of the latter to the troops as possible, and stored the former in government warehouses, hoping for a happy accident that would enable it to ship the bales to European mills. Once in a while, a cargo succeeded in dodging the blockade, and commanded a

famine price abroad; but the total return was slight. Schwab thinks the total Confederate revenue, from taxation of all kinds, was equivalent to about \$100,000,000, in specie.

Borrowing was tried when taxation failed. Bonds of the Confederate States were authorized in 1861, and were sold at home and abroad. At home they realized some \$15,000,000, in gold, and abroad, especially in England and France, they were readily disposed of. The foreign loan had a face value of £2,500,000, but netted for the Confederacy not over \$6,250,000. Counting in all the sources from which the government obtained coin, the most important being the fifteen-million loan, the foreign loan, and seizures from United States depositories in the South, Schwab estimates that in the whole four years, not over \$27,000,000 found its way into the Confederate treasury.

Voluntary loans and taxation played an insignificant part in the Confederate war. Forced loans, which took the form of an irredeemable paper money, were the chief reliance. Before the attack on Fort Sumter, the issue of promissory notes was begun, and before the end of the first year, these constituted nearly eighty per cent of the total indebtedness. Confederate notes became the ordinary currency of the South, and declined in value, steadily, as the war progressed. For a few months, only, did patriotic enthusiasm keep them at par. Their

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increasing flood was swollen by the issues of States, cities, banks, and individuals, until it is impossible to tell, even roughly, the total amount afloat. There is reason to believe that in crises the officials of government issued unauthorized millions to tide over emergencies. The value of this currency is more easily learned than its volume. Gas at fifty dollars a thousand is reported, and flour at three hundred dollars a barrel. In the month of Vicksburg, a gold dollar would buy nine dollars in Confederate paper; it would buy twenty a year later; in March, 1865, it would exchange for sixty-one.

The public finances of the United States stand out in glaring contrast to those of the Confederacy. Like the seceding States, the Union resorted to taxation, to voluntary loans, and to paper currency; but the amounts of these, all of which were ultimately maintained at par, showed a credit which the southern leaders had not anticipated. Congress raised by taxation, in the four years ending in 1865, \$667,000,000; it was able to increase the bonded debt by \$2,140,000,000; it circulated \$458,000,000 in promissory notes. During these four years, the treasury paid out over \$3,300,000,000. There are no figures of Confederate expenditure to put beside these; if there were, the depreciation of the currency would make their interpretation a fiscal puzzle. The total of \$27,000,000, in specie, which Schwab believes

the southern treasury received, suggests, but does not really afford a comparison.

The average annual expenditure of the United States in the five years before the war was under \$67,000,000 ; in the next four years, it was over \$800,000,000, while the duty of directing the transition to this twelve-fold increase was entrusted by Lincoln to the Ohio lawyer, Salmon Portland Chase. Prior to the war, nearly the whole revenue came from the protective tariff, and there had been no internal revenue since the War of 1812. The belief of Congress that the new war was not to be protracted made it reluctant to impose unpopular taxes on the North. There was a new protective tariff, bearing the name of Morrill, of Vermont, passed in the closing days of Buchanan's administration, and still untried when Congress convened, on July 4, 1861, for its first war session. The internal and income taxes, levied at this session, did not become effective until the second year of the war, netting by the summer of 1863 only \$40,000,000. But Congress learned much about taxation and the willingness of the North to pay. In the last year of war, the internal revenue produced \$209,000,000. In successive acts, Congress laid a tax wherever it could find "an article, a product, a trade, a profession, or a source of income ;" stamps of the internal revenue were stuck wherever a place large enough to hold them could be



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found. The North paid them all without distress.

The receipts from the tariff were soon equalled and outdone by the internal revenue. The Morrill act was revised in 1862 and 1864, partly to secure larger revenue, and partly to protect the heavily taxed American manufacturer from foreign competition. From all sources, the taxation of the four years amounted to \$667,000,000, while the fourth year produced nearly six times as much as the first.

Neither the North nor the South had, in 1861, a currency equal to the stress which was placed upon it. There was no national bank, and even the coined money issued by the United States was insufficient. Federal officers, with large disbursements to make, occasionally had to wait at the mints, while the money was being manufactured. The deficiency in money was provided for by some sixteen hundred State or private banks, which, without restraint or uniformity, supplied paper notes for their immediate communities. They professed to redeem these in gold, on demand, but their reserves were too little, even in time of peace. They suspended specie payment before the end of 1861, while the public treasury, forced to suspend also, early in 1862, faced insolvency. In February, 1862, Congress authorized the issue of \$150,000,000 legal tender notes to replace the coin, as well as to constitute an

indirect loan. In later acts, the "greenbacks," as the notes were called, and the fractional notes, or "shinplasters," reached a total of \$458,000,000. There were no irregular issues, and Congress never lost control of its paper money; but enough was floated to add to the derangement of the currency, and to inflict an unfair portion of the cost of the war on those least able to bear it.

After a few months, the greenbacks fell below par, and their value in gold became a barometer of Union hopes and fears. At their lowest, in the summer of 1864, they dropped to thirty-nine cents on the dollar, but generally they were worth from sixty to eighty cents in gold, and always they remained a better currency than the Confederate notes. Their fluctuations, however, served to raise prices, and to increase a burden upon wage or salary earners which traders and speculators could avoid. Their necessity will always be debatable; a more honest course would have been for the treasury to shoulder the loss, and raise public money by selling United States bonds at their market price.

The paper money was a small fraction of the total debt of \$2,600,000,000 created during the Civil War. Four-fifths of the expenditures were met by borrowing, and the sale of bonds was the constant occupation of the treasury. Chase borrowed from the banks, from day to day, during much of

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1861. Later he appointed scores of agents throughout the country to help dispose of bonds, but only one of these helped him much. This one, Jay Cooke, a young Philadelphia banker, became the principal reliance of the treasury as the war progressed, devising means of distributing the bonds quite as picturesque as most of the military campaigns, and much more effective.

Jay Cooke rose to fame by selling at par \$3,000,000 of Pennsylvania bonds that conservative bankers had declared unsaleable. Appointed agent by the governor of the State, he visited banks and individuals, appealed to their patriotism, and cheered or shamed them into contributions. "I took care," he said, "to have this patriotic subscription, giving the names and amounts of all the subscribers, noticed in the newspapers of the country." He sent a copy of the list to Jefferson Davis for his discouragement. Unlimited enthusiasm, coupled with a shrewd regard for the value of printers' ink, helped Cooke in his task. He knew that, over all the country, large sums of coin were in seclusion, in old stockings or strong boxes, waiting to be coaxed out by the person who could convince the owners that the United States was safe. He sent his agents everywhere, advertised in the local journals, patronized the religious weeklies, and appealed to the loyalty and interest of the small investor. He sent ducks and wine, from his Ohio

home, to writers of financial news. He pledged his faith that the government was good. His biographer tells of farmers coming down to Philadelphia to pay their gold to him in person. Repeatedly, his competitors charged favouritism, for he was close to Chase, and was a backer of Senator Sherman of Ohio; but, as often as other banking houses tried to place the bonds, Chase overbid them, and made better bargains for the government. Without his zeal in popularizing investment in government funds, it is hard to see how the loans of the Civil War could have been placed.

No efforts of Chase or Cooke, no bravery, no loyalty to the Union could have given the United States \$3,300,000,000 to spend in four years if the nation had not been sound, financially. Outnumbering the white population of the Confederacy four to one, there was even greater discrepancy in wealth. The 2,800,000 enlistments from the North were the equivalent of 1,500,000 men serving for three years. To produce this number was no special strain. Nearly a third of the northern troops were foreign-born, and 180,000 of them were negroes, enlisted mostly in the South. Few families, relatively, were stranded with their wage-earners in the ranks, for over two million of the enlistments were under twenty-one, more than a million being only eighteen years of age.

At the beginning of 1861 even sanguine

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northerners would not have believed a prophet foretelling the story of the next four years. The panic of 1857 still depressed private industry and produced a deficit in the national treasury. The political panic of the autumn of 1860, caused by the cessation of trade between the sections, further unsettled business conditions. But the North and West, as Fite has clearly shown, were on the verge of financial revival that all would have noticed had not the confusion of politics concealed it.

States had been built up solidly to the western border of Missouri before the war. Their population had moved in under the constant incentive of cheap and fertile lands, and had been specially stimulated every time a financial panic depressed the East. After the panic of 1857, the emigration swelled once more, carrying its tide into the Northwest. Ohio and Indiana had been the great grain fields of the Union; Illinois and Wisconsin now took their place, with Iowa and Missouri pushing up behind, and Minnesota coming into importance. To meet the needs of this newest West, Congress revised the land laws once more. It passed the homestead law, admitting that he who cleared a farm in the wilderness was a public benefactor, and giving free title to residents who improved and cultivated quarter sections of the public lands.

Free lands, as well as fertile, turned men

to the agricultural West in the early sixties, with such eagerness that tempting bounties could not persuade them to enlist. The great demand of Europe for American wheat held up the price. Quick fortunes invited speculation, and agricultural machinery enlarged the effectiveness of the individual worker. Science in agriculture began to ensure his crop against failure. A growing railway mileage brought new areas, as great and rich as European kingdoms, within the reach of hungry markets.

Two-thirds of all the American railways in 1860 were in the North and West, and amounted roughly to 20,000 miles. Their western extremities touched the Mississippi at many places, and had reached the Missouri River at St. Joseph. To these, the next ten years added 23,000 miles, few of which were built within the South. The improvement in service rendered by the larger mileage brought independence of river transportation to nearly all the North. When the Mississippi was closed to navigation early in the war, the North-west suffered; but when it was reopened in 1863, the old traffic would not return, for the eastern railroads had come to serve it better. Progress toward a standard gauge, and consolidation of the little roads of the early railroad era, made shipments cheaper and more convenient. New bridges replaced old ferries, while many of the roads began to build themselves double

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tracks, and to think in terms of steel instead of iron.

Expanding manufactures consumed the increased raw products of the farms. Cincinnati lost "forever to its rival on the Lakes the proud title 'Porkopolis of the West.' " In a single year, Chicago doubled the capacity of her packing houses, and before the war was over she slaughtered 900,000 hogs and 90,000 cattle. The scarcity of cotton increased the use of wool, bringing heavier business to the woollen mills; while the revisions of the tariff helped further to augment the profits of their owners. The use of elaborate machines became more common, making possible the creation of shoe and clothing factories. In 1865, the North alone patented more inventions than the whole United States had produced in 1860.

Taxation failed even to check the industrial and commercial revival. In no period before the war had the North worked so hard, or laid the foundations of so many new interests. With an enlarged market created by the railways and the new telegraphs, individuals lost some of their identity and became merged in corporate existence. Boards of Trade sprang into life to promote city competition. Stock companies consolidated individual producers. The railroads merged for the obvious reasons of larger profits and improved service. The Western Union consolidated scores of rival

lines, extended its wires to the Pacific, and divided the business of the continent with the American Telegraph Company. Uniformity and standardization of national life could not have come before the perfection of transportation by rail ; it was forced to come immediately thereafter, and the Civil War neither hastened nor retarded its advance.

Lincoln, at Gettysburg, had spoken of the " new nation " of 1776. In a truer sense there was a new nation coming into life through the industrial expansion after the panic of 1857. Agriculture, transportation, and manufactures tended to create it ; while the development of the Far West gave it the width of the continent to occupy.

The extension of agriculture to the western border of Missouri had occurred a generation before the Civil War. To the west of this frontier, the Great American Desert, as it was misnamed, interposed its barrier, half a continent in width, between the settlements and the Pacific. Before 1857, California and Oregon had been seen, appreciated, and settled ; but the intervening plains and mountains remained a barrier to their incorporation in the national life. After 1857, even this region began to yield a profit. The discovery of gold and silver in many parts of the Rocky Mountains began in 1858, and thereafter, in quick succession, hundreds of mining camps sprang into life to populate the desert, and reduce the unoc-



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cupied area of the United States. New territories were called for and granted, and one of them advanced to Statehood before the war was over. Colorado and Nevada represented the discoveries in the Pike's Peak and Carson Valley regions ; prospectors along Bill Williams Creek created Arizona ; Idaho and Montana were the response to the demands of miners on the watersheds of the Missouri and Columbia. Out of the mines came gold to replenish the dwindling stock of the United States. Yet more significant, out of them came calls for government, for transportation, for free lands, for irrigation for national activities, which, in the ensuing generation, changed the character of the United States. East or west, wherever the presence of the armies did not cast their blighting shadow, there was prosperity such as America had never known before the Civil War.

Had the leaders of the South seen the facts that are visible to-day, there could have been no Civil War. The struggle to which they, waging it without success, gave wealth and lives that were not replaced for thirty years was not even a hindrance to the normal development of the rest of the Union. But they had misunderstood their economic foundations, and had exaggerated the importance to the North of the setback of 1857, which they had escaped. The superior strength of the North might have been

ineffective, even with the co-operation of its improved transportation, if the South had been able to keep open its European connections. It was the cotton crop on which the Confederacy staked its hope of success. The effective blockade and the equally effective diplomacy of the Union destroyed this reliance. In a prolonged contest, which could call forth "the last full measure of devotion," the superior wealth of the North had time to act, and there could be but one outcome. The resources of the South failed first. This result, visible after Gettysburg and Vicksburg, revealed to contemporaries the fact that the balance of power was with the Union. When Grant took hold, the end was only a matter of time, if the Republican party was retained in power.

## CHAPTER XI

### THE UNION PARTY

THE most important campaign of 1864 was not fought by any of the armies of the United States, but was directed by Lincoln and his advisers in their attempt to secure popular approval of their conduct of the war. The presidential election of 1864 was affected by all of the losses and successes of the year. Grant's movements in the spring played into the hands of those critics who denounced the war as a failure ; Sherman's victories of the autumn were needed to prove the opposite. Discarded generals, Frémont and McClellan, with political friends behind them, made trouble both within the Republican party and outside it. So dubious was the outlook, and so significant its importance that the administration dropped the name Republican and, appealing to the principle of loyalty alone, renamed their party Union.

Two armies held the approach to the Confederacy when U. S. Grant assumed control in the spring of 1864. Lee, on the right bank of the Rapidan, continued to stand watch over Richmond ; while Johnston, who had

succeeded Bragg, faced north-west from Dalton, Georgia, to Chattanooga, where the forces of Sherman and Thomas were concentrated. Between Lee and Johnston were the railways on which their supplies depended, and in the Shenandoah Valley were these supplies. Detached bands of cavalry guarded their connections.

Facing south, in a long curve from the capes of the Chesapeake to the Mississippi, were nearly twenty Union armies, which had never acted in co-operation before 1864. While in the West, Grant wondered why there was confusion in the East. The answer, which he learned in a few days at Washington, determined him to leave Sherman in the division of the Mississippi, and take the eastern post himself. In a multitude of counsels there had been destruction. The armies near Washington had been inspected and criticized; every politician from Lincoln down had become an amateur strategist, and, though their combined wisdom had contributed no important plan, they had interfered with and blocked many campaigns. "No one else could, probably, resist the pressure that would be brought to bear upon him to desist from his own plans and pursue others," Grant wrote in his "Memoirs." He still had to learn that, while political interference had been vexatious, there was a greater obstacle to be overcome,—Robert E. Lee. On January 1, 1864, there were

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860,000 men on the Union rolls, 481,000 on the Confederate.

Early in May, the long Union line advanced. Sherman, on the right with the three armies of the Tennessee, the Cumberland, and the Ohio, curved in upon northern Georgia. Grant, directing the left, marched with Meade and the Army of the Potomac from Culpeper upon Richmond. Butler, moving up the James, was at the extreme Union left; while in the Shenandoah Valley and the Kanawha, Sigel and Crook completed the connection between the armies of the East and those of the West. It was a grand concentric movement which was to press the life out of the Confederacy. It took more men than the defence, because northern opinion would not allow ground, once gained, to be given up, or to be left unguarded. It relied upon the superior force of numbers, and hopes of a speedy peace ran high.

Not all the generals under Grant were able to keep step in the main advance. Sigel failed ingloriously, and Butler was only partially successful. Grant was himself soon involved in the bloody intricacies of the Wilderness campaign.

In the strip of country south of the Rapidan and north of the James, Grant tried, from May 5 to June 12, to dislodge or crush Lee. His army crossed the Rapidan on May 4. On the next day, in the vicinity of the Wilderness Tavern, only a few miles from

Chancellorsville, he found Lee obstructing his passage, and began to revise his judgment as to the extent of the resistance which he must overcome. It cost him 14,000 troops to learn that he could not push his way through the Confederate army, head on.

In less than a week, Grant was fighting again. This time he tried to turn Lee's flank, shifting his own front until it faced the Confederate right wing at Spottsylvania Court House, about ten miles south-east of the Wilderness, and a little further south-west of Fredericksburg. "But Lee, by accident, beat us to Spottsylvania," he later wrote. An intercepting party was prevented by a forest fire from bivouacking on the night of May 7, and so made an unexpected forced march, establishing itself at Spottsylvania before the Union column arrived. For two weeks, Grant tried to push by Lee in this position. Twice he fought severe battles, losing 10,000 men. "I am satisfied the enemy are very shaky," he reported to Halleck; but though Grant's storm of bullets cut down trees in the forest, Lee refused to be dislodged. On May 20, Grant shifted still further to his left, to try another point.

Cold Harbour, where next the armies met, is a cross-roads less than fifteen miles north-east of Richmond, and is near the battlefield where McClellan struggled during the Seven Days. As Grant moved toward it, trying to get around Lee's right, Lee moved

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too ; but on the last day of May, Sheridan seized and held it. Once more the two armies were lined up, and on the morning of June 3, Grant tried again to rush Lee off his feet. He lost 12,000 men without dislodging the enemy. "This assault cost us heavily, and was probably without benefit to compensate: but the enemy was not cheered by the occurrence sufficiently to induce him to take the offensive," was all the Union leader could say to justify the loss of life.

After waiting at Cold Harbour for a week following the battle, Grant gave up as useless his first plan of action. In three great engagements he had gained no permanent advantage beyond that of reducing the number of the enemy. He could replace his dead and wounded with fresh men; every man now lost to the Confederate army meant a permanent diminution of its strength. But Lee had given him stalemate, as Dodge says. Grant's next device was begun at once. Boats were collected in the James River, while he began to shift his army from right to left, with the idea of crossing to the south bank of the James, and advancing on Richmond by way of Petersburg. Butler was already there, and the two armies were side by side on June 15. The chance to occupy Petersburg was missed, however, and until it was taken Richmond was safe. It lay twenty miles due south of Richmond, on the Appo-

mattox, and was so fortified that a formal siege alone could reduce it. This Grant undertook in June, at the time when he and Lincoln had hoped that the long fight with Lee would have been over.

While Grant was in the Wilderness, Lincoln's political future was threatened by either his success or his defeat. In the latter event, the election of a Democrat in the autumn was the least of the dangers to be feared; while if Grant should destroy Lee it was not improbable that his name would carry the Republican convention off its feet, and make him President. No one knew his politics, but if he had taken Richmond, no one would greatly have cared. In the dark days of May and June, with the newspapers printing sheets of dead, as their names came in by thousands, the critics of the administration found many to listen to them.

Within the Republican party there were groups discontented for opposite reasons,—because Lincoln was a tyrant, and because he was too rarely rigorous. He had failed to push the war, declared the latter group, and had removed able generals, Frémont, for instance, for political reasons. His reconstruction proclamation of 1863 was too lenient to “rebels,” and showed the weakness of despair, rather than the generosity of the strong. At the other end of the party from these, were honest Republicans who approved



the war, but could not stand for all its incidents, who regretted the emancipation proclamation as showing a disposition to overstep the Constitution, who opposed the rigour with which criticism at the north was silenced by the strong hand of the army in defiance of the right of free speech and press.

The conservative Republicans found a leader in Chase, who was willing, though sitting in the cabinet, to let himself be pushed for President against his chief. Querulous, and critical of Lincoln in small matters, he resigned twice, and each time allowed himself to be persuaded back. Greeley took him up for the presidential nomination, and in February, 1864, his friends put out a circular which advertised his strong points and Lincoln's unfitness. The matter was explained away, and Chase remained at the treasury; but when, in June, he resigned again, in another pet, Lincoln took him at his word, to his surprise.

Frémont was the choice of the radical Republicans, who tried to force his nomination by holding a preliminary convention of their own, at Cleveland, at the end of May. Their call denounced the "imbecile and vacillating" policy of Lincoln, and hoped to induce all the abolitionists to take up Frémont. When the President heard the details of the convention, he turned to his familiar Bible, and read to his secretaries 1 Samuel xxii. 2: "And every one that

was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men." Before the election, even Frémont saw that he had no followers, and dropped out of the canvass.

The Republican party, convening at Baltimore, in June, asked no embarrassing questions of any persons who chose to join with them. "We pledge ourselves as Union men . . . to do everything in our power to aid the government," their platform read. The minor movements, save that of Frémont, had run their course, and Lincoln's was the only name considered for the nomination. For vice-president there were various candidates, including Hamlin, already in office. The party proved its Union character by passing over Hamlin, and selecting the most notable war Democrat in the United States, Andrew Johnson, whose career in Tennessee had done much to break down distinctions between defenders of the Union. From the standpoint of reconstruction, it is interesting to note that if Tennessee was not a State Johnson was ineligible as a candidate.

More serious than the opposition within his party, was the Democratic attack upon Lincoln. The mildest of its weapons was the assertion that the war was a failure; that peace, with Union, was within Lincoln's reach if he chose to take it. It ought to have

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been entirely clear, to men of honesty and reasonable information, that the one thing which Lincoln demanded, Union, was the sole condition which the Confederacy would not yield; that only conquest could break down the devotion of the South to independence. Yet Democrats persuaded themselves of the opposite. They declared that Davis wanted peace, and the erratic Greeley was convinced of this in 1864. The assertion lost its effectiveness when Lincoln drew the charge, sending Greeley to Canada to treat with any one who thought he could end the war and save the Union. After this errand, Greeley ceased to talk of peace.

Tyranny, and conspiracy to override the Constitution, were more serious charges in the mouth of the opposition, because they had numerous believers among the Republicans, as well. The United States had never encountered cases of treason and sedition on a large scale, and had had no experience in handling them. The Confederacy was to all intents a military dictatorship; in the Union the government had the Constitution always to consider. Under the Constitution, it was extremely difficult to convict of treason. There were no precedents to show how far the minority, in time of war, was to be allowed to obstruct the national purpose. Yet now, the minority showed its sympathy with the South by opposing war measures, by denouncing acts of government as illegal, and

by giving secret aid directly to the Confederacy. At times it seemed as though Democratic resistance would tie the hands of Lincoln, and let the Union be broken.

Lincoln faced his opponents in the rear more boldly than even his adherents always approved. Early in the war, he suspended the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in the North, on his own authority, in order that arrests that appeared necessary to him might not be nullified by the courts. The Constitution declares that "The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it." But it does not say who shall suspend the writ. Lincoln took the responsibility as his own; and though Congress regarded the act as an usurpation of its own authority, it passed, in 1863, a law indemnifying him in case he had violated the Constitution, and enacted general rules for the suspension in the future. Lincoln disregarded these rules when he believed it expedient.

There are no exact figures to show how many persons were arrested arbitrarily in the North during the crises of the war. The number ran into the thousands, and was increased by unauthorized acts of zealous subordinates and military commanders. Every conspiracy that was discovered, or secret society that was brought to light, seemed to the department commander on the

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the ground to need repression. The aggregate number of conspirators was large. Most numerous in Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, they affected ritualistic organization, and drilled in secret, when they could. Their very numbers drew their teeth. So many Union spies were in their ranks that Lincoln knew their plans as soon as they were formulated. They never had a close organization, or were more than an aggravating nuisance. Their most serious influence was in slandering the public credit, dissuading enlistment, and encouraging desertion. The draft might not have been necessary but for them. More than 2,500 deserters were returned to the ranks from Indianapolis, alone, in a single month in 1862. When the President was called upon to sign death warrants for desertion, he generally declined the duty. Only 141 men were shot or hung for this crime throughout the war, and leniency increased the trouble. But Lincoln made the excuse that has been more satisfactory to his fellow-citizens than it was to the disciplinarians of the war department: "Must I shoot a simple-minded soldier boy who deserts, while I must not touch a hair of a wily agitator who induces him to desert? . . . I think that in such a case, to silence the agitator, and save the boy, is not only unconstitutional, but withal a great mercy."

The most famous arbitrary arrest was that

of Clement L. Vallandigham, an Ohio lawyer and journalist, who had represented his district in Congress since 1857. From the beginning of the war Vallandigham denounced the usurpation of power by the President, and the wickedness of coercion. A brilliant speaker, with handsome figure and great courage, he led the most violent wing of the opposition. The term "copperheads," which was bestowed upon his followers in reproach, they finally accepted with pride; and they wore the liberty-head, cut from the old copper cent, as an emblematic badge. "I am for peace," declared Vallandigham. He protested against an "aggressive and invasive warfare"; but denied his desire to extend aid to the Confederacy. When Wade called him a traitor, he denied the charge and called its author "a liar, a scoundrel, and a coward." Through 1862, he fought the administration steadfastly. In the fall of that year, he lost his seat in Congress through a re-arrangement of his district; but the military failures of the year, and the rebuke to Lincoln at the polls, encouraged him and others to keep up their opposition, and their assertions that peace, with Union, was within the reach of an honest administration.

In May, 1863, Vallandigham was arrested at his home in Dayton, by order of the military governor commanding in Ohio, A. E. Burnside. The latter had recently drawn

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the fire of the copperheads by proclaiming in a general order that "Treason, expressed or implied, will not be tolerated in this department." Vallandigham had led in denouncing the order. He was arrested by troops, denied a hearing on a writ of habeas corpus by the United States court, tried before a military tribunal at Cincinnati, and condemned to imprisonment. His alleged crime had been committed in a State where ordinary courts were in regular session. The utterances on which he was condemned were highly partisan, but by no means traitorous. The action of the administration in his case, declared the Democratic governor of New York, Horatio Seymour, "will determine in the minds of more than one-half of the people of the loyal States whether this war is waged to put down rebellion at the South, or to destroy free institutions at the North." Although he doubted the wisdom of the arrest of Vallandigham, Lincoln did not disallow the verdict in his trial. He whimsically commuted the sentence from confinement to banishment within the Confederate lines, and ordered Vallandigham to be escorted thither under guard. Protesting all the way, and seeing none of the humour of the situation, the leader of the copperheads was taken by way of Murfreesboro to the front, and abandoned, under a flag of truce, within the outer line of Confederate pickets.

The case of Vallandigham marks the height

and decline of the activities of the copperheads. The disastrous year, 1862, convinced many that it was safe to fight the Union, and that Lincoln was tottering. It emboldened many to a freedom of speech that would have passed unnoticed in time of peace, but which now provoked the administration to a method of defence that sober lawyers have been reluctant to justify. If, however, the Constitution had been allowed to fall because of its own restrictions upon the freedom of its defenders, it would have been a sad commentary upon the effectiveness of popular government.

Vallandigham in exile was more effective than Vallandigham at large. He left the Confederacy, and took up a residence at Windsor, in Ontario. His party nominated him for governor of Ohio in 1863, and he conducted his campaign from Canadian territory. The administration threw its whole influence into the campaign to defeat him, and both Unionists and copperheads were surprised when the final vote brought out a majority of more than 100,000 for his opponent. On the whole, the best antidote for the teachings of the copperheads was their own speech and actions. Vallandigham was released from his pose of martyr after the election, and was permitted to come home, unnoticed by the government.

When the Democratic national convention met at Chicago, in 1864, the spirit of Vallan-



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digham, who was a leading delegate, wrote the platform. It denounced the war as a failure and as unnecessary. It denounced, also, the violation of constitutional rights in the North; but it nominated for its candidate General McClellan, whose letter of acceptance repudiated the most extreme charge, and pledged him to a vigorous prosecution of the war. The party went before the country with a platform designed to win votes from copperheads, and a candidate to win the support of loyal Democrats and critical Republicans. The lack of Union success in the fighting of the year brought the President to the extreme of discouragement, which he recorded in a memorandum on August 23, “. . . it seems exceedingly probable that this administration will not be re-elected.” Ten days later his gloom was gone. On September 3, he proclaimed a day for national thanksgiving; while Seward was able to declare from the stump that “Sherman and Farragut have knocked the bottom out of the Chicago nominations.”

Sherman had begun to move in 1864 when Grant's long line had started its crushing process on the Confederacy. His chief had kept fighting away through spring and summer, without making large gains. Grant had differed from Meade, and Hooker, and Burnside, and McClellan, mainly in his control of northern opinion and his elasticity, which sent him repeatedly against the enemy.

There were no breathing spells in his campaign, but there were no distinctive victories. Sherman, on the other hand, continued the steady progress that Grant had begun at Cairo. "That we are now all to act on a common plan, converging on a common centre," he wrote to Grant, "looks like enlightened war."

On May 5, as ordered, Sherman put his three armies in motion, about 110,000 strong, in a front twenty miles long, under Schofield, Thomas, and McPherson. There was only one way for him to advance into Georgia; this was along the line of the Western and Atlantic Railroad, running south-east, from Chattanooga to Atlanta, about one hundred and ten miles distant. He had prepared with care for his march, realizing that as his line of communications became longer his danger would increase. When his quartermaster at Nashville, his chief base, complained that he had too little rolling stock to haul one hundred and thirty carloads of food a day, he ordered him to seize, hold, and use, all cars and locomotives arriving from Louisville. When the president of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad remonstrated with him, on account of this, he told him to start a car ferry, and annex the rolling stock coming into Jeffersonville, Indiana, across the Ohio from Louisville. With this mongrel equipment, impressed as needed, he secured his food.

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Johnston, opposing Sherman, and defending every inch of the way, knew better than to fight except when he was sure to win. His losses could not be replaced, and he started with only 66,000 men. Until the last week in July, the campaign was a series of patient manœuvres, of repeated entrenching of positions, and of heavy engagements, while Johnston gradually retired upon Atlanta. Every day that he delayed, increased the chance of a happy accident that might let him destroy Sherman ; a defeat for himself would open the road into Atlanta in a single afternoon.

The Western and Atlantic Railroad, along which Sherman moved, winds a sinuous course through the mountains, from the Tennessee River to Atlanta. It ascends the valley of the Chickamauga River for about fifteen miles, then plunges across country, bridging the Etowah River, just north of Allatoona, and the Chattahoochee, a few miles before it enters Atlanta. Johnston, when the movement started, was at Dalton, thirty odd miles from Chattanooga. He was manœuvred out of this position, and out of Resaca, fifteen miles further south. The Union and Confederate outposts were tapping everywhere ; but there was no decisive engagement until Johnston had retired behind the line of the Etowah, thirty-five miles from Atlanta.

Between the Etowah and the Chatta-

hoochee, there was fighting during June. Sherman's men were gaining in confidence every week. They were now some eighty miles from Chattanooga, and nothing had happened to them. Every few days, Confederate cavalry broke their railway, but Union repair gangs, with wrecking trains, had the gaps rebuilt almost before the raiders' hoof-prints had hardened in the mud. Their numbers were shrinking, as garrisons were posted to hold the line, but there were some new recruits and a consciousness that Johnston was losing more than they. For the last two weeks in June, there were numerous engagements in the vicinity of Marietta, Kenesaw Mountain, a victory for Johnston being the most notable. But whether Johnston won or not, Sherman's constant pressure kept him always retiring to the new earth-works which his gangs of slaves were ever throwing up for him in his rear.

About July 1, Johnston was at the line of the Chattahoochee, the last he could hold before he retired into the entrenchments of Atlanta. Here, as before, Sherman's superior strength drove him away. Occupying the Confederate attention with troops at the centre of the line, the Union forces massed other troops opposite Johnston's right wing, and, threatening to destroy it, compelled the whole to yield. By July 9, Johnston fell back behind the Chattahoochee; a few days later, Sherman crossed the river; yet a few

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days, and Davis removed Johnston from command, on the ground that he had failed to check the Union advance. Hood succeeded him with a fighting policy, instead of one of obstruction and delay. Since Sherman had been, for two months, vainly trying to induce Johnston to fight, the change of command was a relief to him.

By the end of July, after battles at Peach Tree Creek, Atlanta, and Ezra Church, in which Hood gained no advantage to offset his heavy losses, Atlanta became the centre of the Confederate defence, while Sherman partially surrounded and invested it. The fate of Vicksburg might have been repeated here, had not Hood saved his army by decamping on September 2. The slow and sedate Thomas, when he heard the news, says Sherman, "snapped his fingers, whistled, and almost danced."

The importance of Atlanta to the Confederacy could hardly be over-estimated. It was the only one of the better cities of the South that had not been endangered or disturbed by war, before 1864. Here the Confederate government had established cloth mills and uniform factories. Cotton was stored here in large quantities. Remote from what was regarded as possible Union attack, it was developed into the industrial centre of the seceding States. Sherman proposed to end this, and leave Atlanta, when the time came to go off on other business,

useless as an agency of the Confederacy. On September 7, he notified Hood that all non-combatants residing there would be furnished transportation to the Confederate lines. No one was to be left to require a holding garrison; factories and public stores were to be destroyed. "If the people raise a howl against my barbarity and cruelty," he wrote to Halleck, "I will answer that war is war, and not popularity-seeking. If they want peace, they and their relatives must stop the war." The acrimonious discussion that Hood started against this step has not yet subsided, though military experts are disposed to believe that the measure was entirely justifiable. Georgia and the Shenandoah Valley fed and clothed the armies of the Confederacy, yet the former had not seen war within her boundaries; she was now to learn, as Sherman wrote to Hood, that "War is cruelty."

The news of the fall of Atlanta, coming after long discouragement over Petersburg, and after grave doubts whether Sherman was not himself to be lost, gave new heart to the administration, and probably re-elected Lincoln. Two other notable events of the autumn reinforced it, and destroyed McClellan's hope of gaining the election on a platform denouncing the Union armies as without success.

All through the war, the navy was on station off the blockaded ports, doing tedious

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patrol duty that was enlivened only by the occasional chase of a blockade-runner, or brush with a privateer. One by one, most of the ports were taken and held, and the Confederate fleet afloat, always small, was gradually reduced. The notorious *Alabama* was caught off Cherbourg, on the coast of France, and sunk by the *Kearsarge*, after a striking naval duel. In August Farragut entered the harbour of Mobile, which was the last important Gulf port left to the Confederacy, and won a victory that Lincoln coupled with the taking of Atlanta in his proclamation of thanksgiving.

In the eastern field of the war, encouragement came as the presidential campaign advanced. While Grant was embedded before Petersburg, Lee tried once more the trick that had turned off McClellan's Peninsular attack, and had frightened the North in two invasions. He sent Early into the Shenandoah Valley, where that general again scared the national capital, but lost his chance to take it. He remained there through July and August, threatening the North, while his cavalry raided Maryland and burned Chambersburg, in Pennsylvania. No one seemed able to check him, until Grant determined, once for all, to end the annoyance which had so often come by way of the Shenandoah Valley.

Sheridan was detached from the Army of the Potomac in August, and sent into the

Valley with a generous army. He manœuvred carefully against Early, until in September, Grant allowed him to take the aggressive. On September 19 he fought Early at Winchester; three days later they met at Fisher's Hill; and on October 19 the battle of Cedar Creek "finished forever the Valley campaigns." Here Sheridan made the ride that every American schoolboy knows. He had driven the Confederate army out of the Valley, had carried off what military supplies he could use, and had burned the rest. Barns and mills went up in smoke, until the most fertile farms of the Confederacy were devastated, and Lee was permanently deprived of one of his chief resources.

After September 1, the prospects of Lincoln brightened. His friends gained courage to reiterate their charges that McClellan's election would mean restoration of slavery and division of the Union. The President, discouraged at times, continued evenly on the course he had mapped out. He alienated Republican radicals by refusing their vindictive measures of reconstruction, he maintained the draft, he did not, for fear of Democratic votes, weaken his efforts to support Grant. In November he was elected for a second time, by a plurality that showed how many of his fellow-citizens were not satisfied; 2,200,000 votes were cast among the States for him, 1,802,000 for McClellan.



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Neither elation nor despondency changed his pace. The war, in his mind, was essential; but the problems after peace were to be quite as great. Joy at the prospect of victory was tempered by sympathy for the citizens for whom his victory would mean grief and destruction. Some had professed to see in him a dictator and a tyrant. History has found him the opposite, pursuing his way "with malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right."

## CHAPTER XII

### THE CONFEDERATE COLLAPSE

THE end of the war was in sight when Lincoln was re-elected; and when he was inaugurated for the second time, the exact manner of the collapse of the Confederacy was the only uncertainty. The war in the East had become an actual siege of Richmond, with only one termination possible. In the West, the armies were still advancing, and were to continue their progress until Lee and Johnston should be seized, as it were by a gigantic pair of tongs, Grant on one claw, Sherman on the other. The winter of 1864-1865 did not interfere with the Union campaigns. It had taken Grant longer than he thought to "fight it out," but he would neither yield to discouragement nor relax his grip. One of his officers brought a spotted coach-dog into camp, promising to take it into Richmond, because "It is said to come from a long-lived breed." Continuous hammering until the last resistance was crushed had become the Union policy.

Sherman did not remain long inactive in the fall of 1864. He knew that "an army

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which had penetrated Georgia as far as Atlanta could not turn back," and, early in October, was begging Grant to let him send away his baggage, destroy the railroad in his rear, and strike out across country for Milledgeville and Savannah. "I can make this march, and make Georgia howl!" he wrote. He could both transfer his army to the coast, where it could operate in connection with the fleet and the eastern armies, and strike a blow at the resources of the Confederacy which would discourage it. The sooner every southerner was taught that the war could not succeed, and that its continuance meant personal ruin, as well as ultimate defeat, the sooner Lee and Johnston's armies would melt away. For nearly a month Grant withheld his positive permission for the raid. He had had his mind set on Mobile for the next move. Sherman insisted that there was no enemy between him and the sea; but the rules of strategy have only criticism for a commander who abandons his base in the enemy's country, and marches away from the hostile army instead of toward it.

The effect which this movement would have on the future of Atlanta, Chattanooga, and Nashville was considered before Sherman was allowed to start. Hood was already worrying the railroad, and Thomas had been sent back to Nashville, while the troops were distributed along the railroad behind Atlanta.

By the end of October it was seen that Hood was after Thomas, in the attempt to ruin Sherman by destroying his base. Sherman saw the time had come to let the base go, leave Hood in Thomas's hands, and start for the coast. On November 2, Grant gave his definite assent, and Sherman began to strip his force. The baggage, the sick, and the lukewarm were sent back to Chattanooga or Nashville; the picked men from the garrisons along the railroad were gathered at Atlanta; on November 12 the last telegraph wire connecting Sherman with Washington was broken, and four days later the army, 60,000 strong, and every man a selected veteran, marched out of Atlanta, chanting:

“ John Brown's body lies a-mould'ring in the  
grave,

His soul goes marching on ! ”

In December, Thomas justified the confidence placed in him by defeating Hood and taking nearly 4500 prisoners at Nashville.

The stirring words of Sherman's marching song were not set to music until the raid was over, but they tell the story. It was a holiday trip, with almost no opposition, in spite of the impassioned appeals of Beauregard that Georgia should rise to annihilate the presumptuous invader. In four columns, foraging liberally upon the country, the troops advanced. A strip of the richest lands of Georgia,

“ Sixty miles in latitude—three hundred to the  
main,

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was left empty in their rear. In great variety, the food of the countryside was brought in by the "bummers," as the foragers were called; while the negroes, seeing the "Yanks" for the first time, followed in the rear of their deliverers. The song tells it all:

"How the darkeys shouted when they heard the  
joyful sound!  
How the turkeys gobbled which our commissary  
found!  
How the sweet potatoes even started from the  
ground,  
While we were marching through Georgia."

The populace suffered, and Sherman's name is still a mark for southern execration. In such a campaign it is not strange that private property was not always safe. Food and stock were fair prey; money, silver, trinkets, ought to have been let alone, and Sherman's orders gave no countenance to thefts of these. But with an army of hilarious boys, as most of the "veterans" yet were, operating in the enemy's country, with the irrepressible love of souvenirs that still marks the American youth and runs riot over street signs and hotel silver in every college town, a nice and proper discrimination between materials of war and private property could not be maintained. The women of the country, however, had nothing worse to fear than the theft of their family spoons. The men did not know where they were going and did not care; Sherman car-

ried the whole burden of responsibility, knowing that if he failed his march "would be adjudged the wild adventure of a crazy fool."

On December 13, Sherman reached the sea, whence he communicated with the fleet off-shore. Eight days later the garrison of Savannah ran a pontoon bridge across the Savannah River, and escaped into South Carolina, while the Union army entered the city the same day. The capture of the city came to Lincoln as a Christmas gift. Sherman had found no dangers on the march, and had come into Savannah with a loss of under one thousand men.

The Confederate arrangements of 1865 were dictated by the news which Sherman sent out from Savannah. He had been authorized, on January 2, to continue his march to the north, and declared his intention of heading for either Charleston, north along the coast, or Augusta, up the Savannah River. Wheeler and Wade Hampton, with their cavalry, were sent to head him off; while what was left of Hood's army, after Nashville, together with some militia, was collected in the Carolinas under "Joe" Johnston, who was now restored to active command. In February, Sherman's army, still about 60,000 strong, left Savannah, not for either of the points announced, but on a course between them, for Columbia.

This march was no picnic, as the march

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to Savannah had been. It crossed all the rivers and creeks flowing seaward; it found few roads and almost no bridges; everywhere, a desperate enemy obstructed the advance, while the incessant rains of early spring prepared bottomless quagmires for the baggage trains. On February 17, Hampton abandoned Columbia, the capital of his State, to Sherman, and in the confusion of occupation it was destroyed by fire,—probably started by drunken irregulars who disgraced both armies. That not all of Sherman's men were destructive is proved by the discovery of one of the Iowa troops, who, after standing guard over a stranger's chickens, was "in another room minding her baby," while she was visited by the commander.

From Columbia the advance continued to Fayetteville, which Sherman entered on March 11. Charleston had fallen into the hands of the fleet without a battle, as soon as her railroad connections with the interior had been cut. On March 19, Sherman's advance ran into Johnston's whole army, making a stand near Goldsboro, and was temporarily stopped. He had reached the centre of North Carolina, four hundred and twenty-five miles from Savannah. Within the next few weeks Sherman and Grant ended the war.

Grant's first campaign in Virginia had resulted in great losses in the Wilderness, in

the spring of 1864, with no compensating gains. He had followed it at once with a second, an advance up the James River, in which Petersburg blocked and held him. With a tired army, cut in two by its losses, he began his siege.

The importance of Petersburg to Richmond was greater than that of an outlying defensive fortress. It was a railroad centre of quite as much significance as the capital city. Five lines of track connected it with Richmond and City Point and Norfolk, on the James, with Goldsboro and Wilmington, to the south, and with Lynchburg, to the west. A large part of the supplies for Lee, from the south, passed through it; and supplies, by the summer of 1864, were coming to be of first importance to the Confederacy. Under the insistent pressure of Grant, Lee held a line thirty-five miles long, from a point north of Richmond to one south of Petersburg. The James protected his front on the left, the Appomattox covered his right. The Union armies confronting him were split by the James, below the junction of the Appomattox; Butler was north, Grant was south of the river.

With smaller resources, but with a skill not surpassed by Grant, Lee turned off the attacks upon his position. In July, 1864, an attempt was made to mine the fortifications of Petersburg, blow up a section of them, and carry the city by assault. The



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news of the mining reached the Confederates, creating some of the nervousness that Grant counted on. But when the mine was exploded on July 30, the assault was mismanaged, and nearly three thousand were killed and wounded in the crater. In the next month the work of Early in the Valley induced Grant to detach Sheridan for the autumn campaign around Winchester.

Through the rest of 1864, there were repeated attempts to catch Lee napping, to break his thin line, to turn his flanks, or to destroy the railroads in his rear. But Sherman, on the whole, was weakening him more than Grant. The fall of Atlanta in September cost the Confederacy many of its existing supplies, and the hope of more. The march to the sea destroyed food and confidence; the news of burning barns and scattered families had a moral influence on the men of Lee's command. His soldiers deserted in large numbers to look after the families at home, and the people at home sheltered the deserters from the searching parties of the provost-marshals. The southern people tired of the war; if their opinion could have been registered, it would probably have stopped now; for Georgia was in almost open mutiny against the Richmond government, and North Carolina threatened to secede. But the Confederate leaders, who had revolted against a nationalized government, alleging that it contemplated an attack against the

existence of their States, carried on their war with a high hand. State rights in the South were not allowed to restrict the hand of government. The Confederate supreme court was never created to judge of the legality of the acts of Davis and his secretaries, and until his administration was driven to flight, with its armies actually captured or dispersed, the war had to go on.

Early in 1865, Lee could see what Davis would not admit, that the fall of Petersburg and Richmond was only a matter of time. In desperation, they both listened to the astute Benjamin, Secretary of State, who advised that slavery be abolished as a means of securing European aid, and that the negroes be armed to fight for independence. Lee advised that Richmond be abandoned, and that the government take refuge in the Blue Ridge, beyond Lynchburg, where a handful of troops could cover the mountain passes and maintain a resistance for an indefinite period. Neither of these plans was acted upon, and the new year opened with the defence of Richmond still the primary Confederate policy.

After Sheridan's successes in the Valley, and Sherman's in the South, Grant was sure he could end the war in a single brief campaign. The net was tightening. Along the coast, the blockade was effective. There was no retreat to the South, with Sherman there, Savannah and Charleston under Union garri-

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sons, and Atlanta empty. To the North, there was only Grant's inevitable line, and the devastated Valley. Behind Lynchburg was the single way out, and toward this gap both commanders turned their attention.

Grant's line, when he took the field after the winter rains (through which Sherman had grimly tramped), was a long crescent, extending from the Valley, where Sheridan remained until March, to Goldsboro, where Sherman arrived in the same month. His right wing of 1864 had become his left wing for the final struggle, after traversing Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. Within his embrace lay both Lee and Johnston, now deprived of their food supplies from either the Valley or the southern interior.

Sheridan was specially charged to look after Lynchburg, its railroad, and its canal, lest any of them should be used by Lee in his extremity. Like Lee, Grant realized the difficulties in driving an army out of the valleys of the Blue Ridge. Sherman was left to watch and hold Johnston, for Grant did not want him in at the finish of Lee's army, being "very anxious to have the Eastern armies vanquish their old enemy who had so long resisted all their repeated and gallant attempts to subdue them or drive them from their capital."

Lee had prepared for his escape by removing his supplies from Richmond, along the railroad to Amelia Court House, half way to

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Lynchburg. Before he followed them, he tried once more to create confusion in the Union ranks by an assault. On March 24, he surprised and broke through the line, a little north of Petersburg, with a disastrous success, since his assaulting party got so far into the enemy's country that all were captured the next morning—a loss to Lee of nearly four thousand.

The armies of the Potomac and the James moved out of their entrenchments on March 29. Sheridan was with them, having completed his work at the extreme right, and now led the advance to the south of Petersburg. At Dinwiddie Court House, on March 31, and at Five Forks, the next day, Lee resisted the advance; but when, on April 2, Petersburg was taken by storm, he abandoned his position, and Richmond too, and started on his retreat. On Monday, April 3, Davis, his government, and his archives, were moved to Danville, the President still protesting his determination to “die in the last ditch.” A few days more, and they were scattered in promiscuous flight.

The fall of the Confederate capital demoralized the North with indiscriminate rejoicing. At Washington, it degenerated into a debauch among the clerks. The churches held services of praise and thanksgiving. Whatever had been the disposition of individuals while the outcome was in doubt, all were Unionists now, and read with joy the

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news that Davis was in flight, that Lincoln had visited the deserted Richmond, that Grant and Sheridan were hot on the trail of Lee's retreating army.

The trail was short. Lee's stores, meagre at best, that had been collected in freight cars at Amelia Court House, had been hauled back to Richmond, through the anxiety of the civil officers to save themselves. Hungry and tired, his men dropped out of the ranks. Nearly 14,000 were captured during the first week in April. But Lee pushed on, between the valleys of the Appomattox and the James, until on April 8 he found Sheridan, "nimble-footed" than himself, heading him off at Appomattox Court House.

On April 7, Grant had shifted "the responsibility of any further effusion of blood" by calling upon Lee to surrender his Army of Northern Virginia. On the 9th, the generals met in a residence near Appomattox Court House, Lee dignified, impassive, and resplendent in a new uniform, Grant in working clothes, a shabby fatigue blouse, without a sword; but the conqueror, in his diffidence, talked about old times and the Mexican War for half an hour, until Lee recalled him to the purpose of their meeting. The terms were simple, and as generous as Lincoln could have made them,—surrender of all, but no humiliation, the officers retaining their side arms and riding away on

their own horses, the men allowed to keep their horses to work their farms, and all fed at once by an army that turned its hostility into hospitality. Toward the end of April, Johnston surrendered to Sherman; Kirby Smith gave up his fragment of an army in the trans-Mississippi in May, and the war was over.

The return of the victorious armies of the Union to the farm, the workshop, and the office, was as great a triumph as their conquests had been. Nearly a million men were mustered out in 1865. As rapidly as Grant could direct it, the armies were brought back to the great camps around Washington. Here they were collected for one last march together, before they dispersed for ever. On May 23 and 24, they paraded the length of Pennsylvania Avenue, in the midst of a great throng, with the President and their commanders on the reviewing stand. It was noticed by the observers that Sherman's troops were ragged and unkempt beyond the average. They had lived for nearly a year from hand to mouth. But they knew, and their leaders knew, that there probably had never been another sixty-thousand so tough and true, with so few weaklings among them.

The officers who rode in the review, like the President who inspected them, were men whom none would have picked in 1861, as the probable leaders of the war. Scott was yet living, but in the retirement of old age;

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McClellan had no part in the triumph. A group of men, whose reputations had been won amidst the hardest knocks, had seized the tools of war and wielded them. In the rejoicings of the day, the men in uniform knew better than the shouters what their enemy had been, how to estimate his virtues, and what was the meaning of defeat.

The Union remained intact after the greatest of Civil Wars. It had been proved that a republic can act efficiently, that a majority can rule, that a peaceful people can turn to war and conduct it with success. The Constitution, too, remained as it had been before the South tried to test its strength. The nation was on the eve of an industrial revolution that was to bring its changes in the course of time ; but a scheme of government that had outlived the Civil War was past all fear of destruction.

The armies of Lee and Johnston returned to poverty and humiliation. For four years they had kept, with steady eye, the one end of independence before themselves. Everything they had or hoped for was staked upon it. They now went back to broken homes, to plundered farms, to nearly total devastation. That they had brought these things upon themselves only deepens the pity. They were, moreover, going home in uncertainty as to what the future might have in store for them, as people or as States.

Lincoln had looked forward to this day of

readjustment from the time when the Union forces wrenched the first bits of soil from the armies of the Confederacy. It was a convenient theory for him to assert that the people were deceived, that the Confederacy was a legal phantom, that when the people should return to their senses, and obey the law, they would be restored to the enjoyment of their rights as citizens. He had acted upon this theory in his dealings with Virginia, Tennessee, Louisiana, and Arkansas, and Congress had approved his course up to 1863. But as the war dragged on, and the full measure of Confederate determination was understood, Lincoln was left alone in his generosity. The men who actually fought, on either side, had little rancour in them. To-day, the keen analysis of history has shown that the South was helpless in the hand of destiny; the scientists have shown that the law of evolution preserves the higher type with relentless and extravagant cruelty. But in the North, the desire to find some one who could be punished crowded out the thoughts of compassion as well as those of wisdom.

If only from practical considerations, economy and expediency forbade retaliation. Peace always comes quickest after a civil war when the victors are generous to the vanquished. Lincoln knew this; and the tones of his second "inaugural" show that he intended to have no hand in the punishment



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of leaders, or led, in the South. As he had turned every political tool which a profound politician knows to the maintenance of the Union, so he stood ready to turn them to the softening of the feelings of the North and Congress.

On the night of April 14, while Washington and the North were still delirious over the collapse of the Confederacy, Lincoln was murdered by a fanatical actor, Booth by name; and the routine of the Constitution put in his place a Democrat, a southerner, and, far worse, a man of indomitable will and utter lack of tact. Andrew Johnson was the worst man who could have succeeded Lincoln, for he could not hope to act in harmony with a Republican Congress, now that the binding issue of Union was no more. He took up the work where it had dropped, appointed military governors for the southern States, and toward the end of May issued a proclamation that Lincoln had planned, offering a generous pardon, and stating the terms on which the loyal citizens of the South would be aided in restoring their State governments. Probably Lincoln would have failed to carry Congress with him in this leniency; Johnson could never do it. But before Congress could meet or interfere, reconstruction, as Lincoln would have wished it, was well advanced, and the Thirteenth Amendment, the legal child of emancipation, was being accepted by the States of the old Confederacy.

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What Congress did, and tried to do, does not belong to the history of the Civil War. That ends with the termination of resistance. How Johnson, in place of fighting "traitors" in the South, turned to fight them in Congress, how he relapsed into the strict-constructionist Democracy of his early life, how Republicans repudiated and belaboured him, belong to the unsavoury story of Reconstruction. War had been bad enough for the South. In the North it had placed a premium on resolution, narrow loyalty, intolerance, the virtues of war, every one of which was an obstacle to the return of peace. Northern revenge, in the guise of preservation of the dearly won Union, was worse than war for the South. Yet it was the logical result of the emotional outpouring which alone made it possible to save the nation, and of the secession which made that outpouring necessary. It is possible to show that the South was led into secession by causes which it could not control; yet it was led into an evil path. In the words of Grant, who was "depressed . . . at the downfall of a foe who had fought so long and valiantly," the fact remains that the Confederate cause was "one of the worst for which a people ever fought, and one for which there was the least excuse."



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